



THE COWL

Vol. LXXIV No.16

thecowl.com

Providence College

February 18, 2010

PICTURES FROM HAITI

Claudia Mortimer Shares Updates on Port-au-Prince

HAITI / Page 6



Claudia Mortimer '13 was in Haiti when the earthquake rocked the country. At the time of the quake she was at Le Village Hotel Montanna, pictured at the left. The picture to the right is the hotel after the disaster.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CLAUDIA MORTIMER '13

Feinstein Finds Money

Off-Campus Work Study Students Have Jobs Again

by Devin Murphy '10
News Editor

CAMPUS NEWS

Students receiving off-campus work study will not have to worry about being strapped for cash this semester. After originally receiving two e-mails from the Feinstein Institute of Public Service telling them that it had exhausted its off-campus work study funds, a few days later on Feb. 5, students received another e-mail from the Office of Financial Aid telling them that they would still be receiving financial aid.

Recipients of off-campus work study received notice via e-mail from Raymond Sickinger, Ph.D., chair of Feinstein Institute, on Feb. 2, that its budget had been "nearly depleted." Students were also informed that the last pay period would end on Feb. 10, and that all time sheets had to be submitted by that date.

On Friday, Feb. 5, students received

another e-mail from Sandra Oliveira, director of Financial Aid. Oliveira's e-mail informed them that they would still receive off-campus work study. She wrote that she had not been aware that Sickinger had made a decision regarding the future of work study for the rest of the academic year.

"I am writing to let each of you know that his e-mail notice was the first time that I had knowledge that a decision was made to terminate all employment for all students participating in off-campus work study," wrote Oliveira.

The e-mail went on to assure students that Providence College's entire allotment of federal work study funds had not been exhausted and that all students will definitely be awarded their full work study amounts if they work enough hours.

Hugh Lena, Ph.D. vice president for Academic Affairs, said that there was no miscommunication between the two offices. According to Lena, Feinstein's funds were nearly depleted. He was aware that Sickinger was planning on sending an e-mail out to students

notifying them of the situation and authorized him to do so. When Lena realized how many students were going to be negatively affected by the decision to discontinue off-campus work study he decided to look for unused funds to supplement Feinstein's funds. He was also aware that the Office of Financial Aid was planning on sending another e-mail to students and authorized it. However, Lena said that there was no miscommunication between Feinstein and Financial Aid.

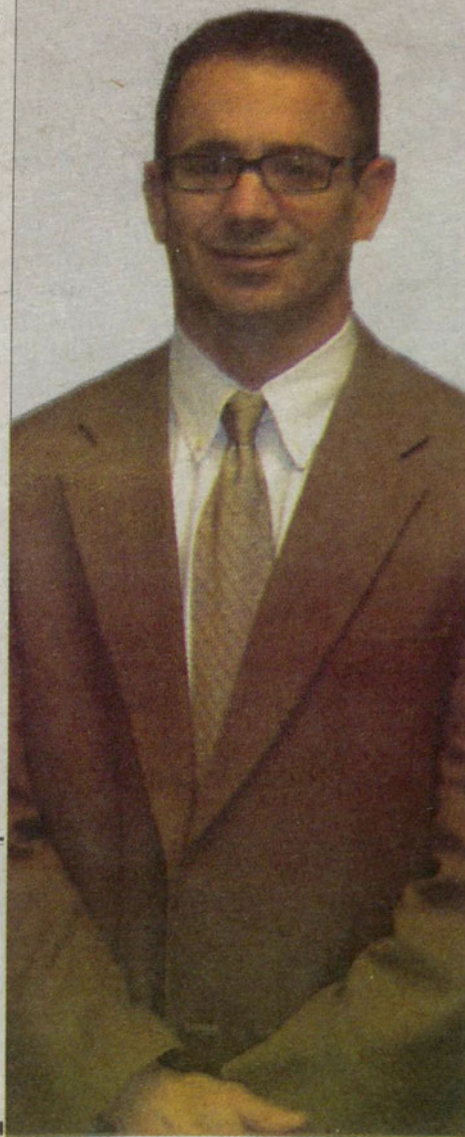
Feinstein Institute falls under Lena's jurisdiction as vice president of Academic Affairs. When it became apparent that Feinstein was not going to be able to stay within its annual budget Lena had scheduled a meeting to discuss the options Feinstein had. The work study budget has already been increased by \$20,000 over the last two years.

For the 2009-10 academic year the total allotment for work study was

MONEY / Page 7

SEARS NAMED INTERIM ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Story on page 7



INSIDETHECOWL

Providence College's Student-Run Newspaper Since 1935

World	8
Commentary	11
A&E	16
Roving	22
Portfolio	25
Sports	27



COMMENTARY

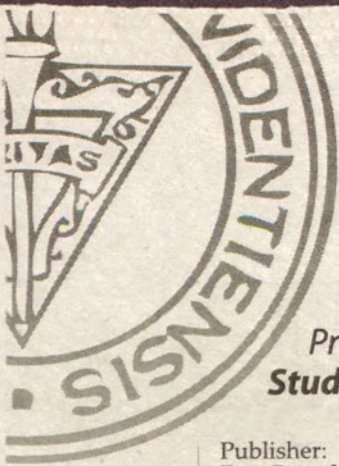
Whiskey Town:
Does PC have a drinking problem? Our writers examine the issue.

Page 12

SPORTS

Roughed Up:
Friars extend losing streak with loss to No. 8 West Virginia

Page 32



Providence College's
Student-Run Newspaper Since 1935

Publisher:
Rev. Brendan Murphy, O.P.

Advisor:
Mr. Richard F. Kless

Editor-in-Chief:
John Vaghi '10

Associate Editor-in-Chief:
Katie Caliva '10

Managing Editor:
Matt Longobardi '10

News Editor: Devin Murphy '10
Asst. News Editor: Valerie Ferdon '12

World Editor: Jenny Arvanaghi '10
Asst. World Editor: Sarah Laperriere '11

Commentary Editor: Maryclaire Dugre '10
Asst. Commentary Editor: Chris Slavin '12

Arts & Entertainment Editors:
Nahuel Fanjul-Arguijo '11, Catherine Northington '12

Portfolio Editor: Nicole Amaral '10
Asst. Portfolio Editor: Conor Leary '11

Sports Editor: Dan Ollquist '10
Asst. Sports Editor: John Butler '11

Photography Editor: Sara Spirito '11
Asst. Photography Editor: Dan Nieto '11

Head Copy Editors: Patrick Allen '10, Katrina Davino '10
Asst. Copy Editor: Lauren Cavalli '11

Roving Editor: Brigid Quinn '11

Copy Editors: Mo Kroening '10, Kate Cunningham '10, Caroline Thibadeau '10, Ariana Tantillo '11, Natalee Ambroze '12, Kelly Dorwin '12, Christina Zupicich '12

Business Manager: Jessica Connaughton '10

Advertising Managers: Caitlin Duggan '10, Cori Kavanagh '10, Kerry McDuffee '10,

Circulations: Chris Huber '10, Brendan Shine '10, Andy Donahue '10

Webmaster: Jeff Gahan '11

Editor's Desk

The announcement of Steve Sears, Ph.D., as the interim associate vice president of Student Affairs and dean of students, marks a unique opportunity for the Providence College administration. The 2008-09 academic year started with an uproar from the student body over the new alcohol policy. Students felt as though their voices were ignored by Student Affairs and the administration. Much of the anger was directed at former associate vice president of Student Affairs, Chris Fortunato, who developed and announced the policy a week before the start of the fall semester.

A new and yet familiar face, which is well acquainted with the student body and campus culture, is a welcomed change. Sears' appointment marks a chance for Student Affairs and the student body to forget its grievances and reestablish a productive working relationship. It is important that students feel as though they have administrators who are invested in their well being. It is also a chance for the administration to acknowledge that the campus culture cannot be changed without the input of the students.

The College needs to foster good relations with students again. If students graduate with bitter feelings, as many in the Class of 2009 did, it only hurts the College. Alumni who graduated with hard feelings are less likely to give back to future classes. If Providence College wants to become less dependent on tuition it needs to nourish alumni relations. And a College less dependent on tuition would be beneficial for all PC students, alumni, faculty, and staff.

Sears' enthusiasm regarding his new appointment as dean of Student Affairs and his willingness to reach out to students is promising. He is ready to listen to students, even if they offer criticism. His attitude will enable him to be the best possible liaison between the administration and the student body. His experience interacting with students will prove invaluable.








We hope that all students and administrators seize this golden opportunity. Students cannot squander their chance to show the administration that they are mature enough to act as equal partners in making decisions which shape campus culture. The administration cannot afford to allow a majority of students believe that their voices do not count.

It is time to change for the better.

— The Editors

Feburary 19 - Feburary 25

CampusCalendar

Fri 19	Sat 20	Sun 21	Mon 22	Tues 23	Wed 24	Thurs 25
						
Partly Cloudy 40° 27°	Partly Cloudy 42° 26°	Partly Cloudy 42° 26°	Partly Cloudy 41° 27°	Snow Shower 39° 27°	Snow Shower 39° 26°	Snow/Rain 41° 26°
7:00 p.m. PC Men's Hockey vs. Boston University, Schneider Arena	6:00 p.m. African-American Dating Game, Slavin Center, McPhail's	5:30 p.m. Mangia Weekend Dinner, Slavin Center, McPhail's	3:30 p.m. Summer Internship Workshop, Slavin G01	9:00 a.m. Blogging over Breakfast, Feinstein 304	7:00 p.m. Spelling Bee, Slavin Center, McPhail's	8:00 p.m. Taizé Ecumenical Prayer Service, St. Dominic Chapel
9:00 p.m. Roller Skating Event, Slavin 112 and '64 Hall	6:30 p.m. Mangia Weekend: Lasertag, Slavin 112 and '64 Hall		7:00 p.m. Lecture given by Professor Rondae Drafts, Slavin Center, '64 Hall	7:00 p.m. PC Men's Basketball vs. Syracuse, Dunkin Donuts Center	7:00 p.m. Eating Disorder Awareness, Aquinas Lounge	

Letter Policy

The Cowl welcomes guest commentaries and letters to the editor from members of the Providence College community and outside contributors.

All submissions must include the writer's name, signature, a phone number, and an e-mail address where he or she can be reached. Letters should be no more than 250 words in length and will be printed as space permits. Guest commentaries should be limited to 700 words in length, and only one will be published per week. The Cowl reserves the right to edit articles for space and clarity. Submissions must be delivered, mailed, or faxed to The Cowl office no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication.

Mail submissions to The Cowl, 1 Cunningham Square, Providence, R.I. 02918; fax to 401-865-1202; submit online at www.thecowl.com; e-mail to thecowl@providence.edu; or hand deliver to The Cowl office in Slavin G05.

Accuracy Watch

The Cowl is committed to accuracy and carefully checks every article that goes into print to ensure that the facts are presented clearly and truthfully. If you find an error in any article, please e-mail the Editor-in-Chief at thecowl@providence.edu. Corrections will be printed as necessary.

Advertising

Contact The Cowl with advertising requests and questions at cowlads@providence.edu or, if necessary, via telephone at 401-865-2214. Visit www.thecowl.info for rates, publication dates, and other information about advertising with The Cowl.

Subscriptions

Subscription rate for a weekly issue by mail is \$30 per year. Send payment to The Cowl, 1 Cunningham Square, Providence, R.I. 02918; make checks payable to The Cowl. Student subscription is included in tuition fee; issues are available around campus on Thursday nights.

Cadet McNamara Performs on Stage and in ROTC

by Meghan Conway '12
News Staff

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

For Liz McNamara '11, being a student while active in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps [ROTC] Program means experiencing the best of both worlds at Providence College. McNamara feels ROTC and her involvement in many different activities at the College has made her more than well rounded.

As if a double major in political science and theatre is not demanding enough for an ROTC scholarship student, McNamara still finds time to pursue crew, acting, and a job in the library as a student commons assistant. As a junior, ROTC requires McNamara to complete daily workouts, weekly training sessions, field training exercises once a semester, and perform color guard.

"ROTC is a lot of work, but it's really great," said McNamara. "I'm pretty busy, but when I have free time I love to go to the movies—that never gets old."

McNamara, a resident of North Providence, R.I., knew since high school that ROTC was something she wanted to do. Although her father is in the Army, she says he never pushed her to join the military.

"I think my dad almost had a heart attack when I told him I was joining ROTC," said McNamara. "It was the last thing he expected and he never pressured me to join the program. It was a decision I made on my own."

The strong ROTC program was a major reason she chose to attend Providence College, but the overall community feeling and warm atmosphere is what helped her make her final decision to become a friar.

"Growing up so close to this school, I never really thought of it as an option," said McNamara. "Luckily my parents encouraged me to check it out and as soon as I saw the campus I knew it was the right place for me. Everyone was so welcoming, and on top of that the ROTC Program is top notch."

McNamara said one of her favorite ROTC moments was having Black Hawk helicopters land on Hendricken Field and taking part in the ROTC

field training exercises. She said she was proud to be part of an event that showed Providence College students what the Army is all about.

"It's hard to put into words how I feel about ROTC," said McNamara. "There's just something cool about walking around campus with my uniform on and seeing someone else in their uniform. We can be yards and yards apart, but there will still be a connection there."

She also loves the formal events such as the Veteran's Day Ceremony, because everyone is in Class A uniforms and looking their sharpest.

"Just knowing that I'm involved in something that is bigger than myself feels great," said McNamara.

As a four-year scholarship ROTC student, McNamara must serve in the Army for a minimum of four years after graduation. The evaluation of her performance this year will determine where she ends up in the Army next year. However, between her intense commitment to ROTC and her love of performing, McNamara has had trouble deciding which path she'll ultimately choose to take.

"I'm anxious to find out where I'll be in two years, but I'm excited too," said McNamara. "My first choice is to be full time Army and Military Law, but since that is really competitive, my back up plans are part-time Army and part-time acting. It's all up in the air for me now."

The productions McNamara has performed in are *Waiting for Lefty*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*, and she is currently in the company of *Little Women*.

"The Department of Theatre, Dance, and Film is filled with wonderful people; I love it and I love acting," said McNamara.

McNamara feels lucky to be a part of such diverse activities at the College. "It's interesting because colleges in general have the tendency to be very free-thinking and they encourage you to think outside the box, whereas the Army is an entirely different animal because it's very conservative and very rigid," said McNamara. "So for me the most interesting part of being a student and in ROTC at the same time means to literally live in two completely separate worlds, which makes me feel well balanced to say the least."

Join us, Fr. Domini Legge, OP,

Campus Ministry and
Music Ministry for

An Evening of Gregorian Chant

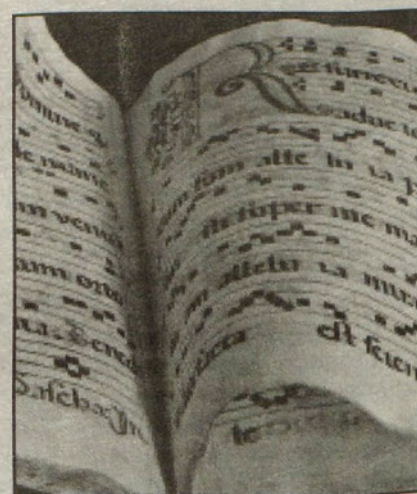
Wednesday, February 24th

8:00pm

in the Campus Ministry
Center (Room B)

9:00pm

mass will follow in
St. Dominic Chapel



Questions?

E-mail: nricc2@friars.providence.edu

Sponsored by
Campus Ministry

trinity
repertory
company

NOW – MARCH 7

Students always \$15

Twelfth Night

Love's a funny business
in Shakespeare's
madcap romantic comedy!

WWW.TRINITYREP.COM • (401) 351-4242 •

201 WASHINGTON ST. • PROVIDENCE

Season sponsored by

Part of Shakespeare for a New Generation, sponsored by the
National Endowment for the Arts in cooperation with Arts Midwest



STEPHEN BERENSON

Presented by the Office of Residence Life

PC Idol

ROUND ONE

THURSDAY, FEB 25 AT 7PM

Rebecca Brendli
Christina Sardone
Sigourney Considine
Jayo Macasaquit
Gianna Albano
Shannon Kelly
Emily Beatty
Kenny Carberry
Andy Shea
Amy Cundall

TOP FORTY
EDITION

FOR LOCATION
AND MORE INFO
VISIT PCIDOL.NET

Track Teams Collecting Sneakers for Haiti

by Jordan Frias '11
News Staff

HAITI RELIEF

Track stars Dominic Channon '12 and Emma Perron '11 are shipping their shoes to Haiti. They hope the initiative will benefit victims of the Jan. 12 earthquake that hit the capital of Port-au-Prince. Channon and Perron have collected a total of 72 pairs of shoes this semester and are planning to collect more in the months to come. Their goal is to collect up to 80 or 100 by the end of the academic year.

"Originally, we were doing it for community service," said Channon. "We just stuck it to ourselves to follow through."

Channon and Perron explained that the Men's and Women's Track Teams receive truckloads of new shoes by their team endorser Reebok.

"There are stacks and stacks of shoes," said Channon.

While members of the Men's Track Team receive shoes on a weekly basis, the women's team receives new pairs every two to three weeks after a track meet. Both Channon and Perron described the demand and distribution of shoes as "lenient."

Channon and Perron decided to donate their team's surplus of shoes to an organization called Soles4Souls, a charity based out of Nashville, Tenn. The charity is currently shipping their collection of shoes to the country of Haiti.

A Soles4Souls donation box was available at a local City Sports store located on Thayer St. Although the drive ended at City Sports on Feb. 7, Channon and Perron are planning on tracking down the closest vendor where the drive is currently taking place.

The track teams at Providence College go through an abundance of shoes every year. Channon and Perron noticed the pile up of shoes in their team locker rooms and decided to put them to good use. Channon described the used shoes as being close to new in condition.

Perron also saw that her teammates wanted to find a use for the shoes which accumulate after every meet.

"We realized that no one wants to really throw out the shoes," Perron said. "It's kind of a waste."

The question of what to do with all of their shoes was answered by fellow teammate Sara Graney '12 who stumbled upon Soles4Souls while reading an e-mail from City Sports. After overhearing about Channon and Perron's initiative over dinner, Graney thought they would be interested in an e-mail she had recently received. It turns out they were.

Usually, Graney deletes various e-mails from vendors like City Sports without reading them. Fortunately for Channon and Perron, Graney looked over this electronic newsletter carefully because of the headline that it contained. It called for a Haiti initiative that would fit the requirements that her track mates were looking for.

"We get a new pair whenever we

want," Graney said. "They build up in our locker room."

According to Graney, the girl's locker room is cluttered with over 50 pairs of Reebok shoes. Seeing the work of her teammates and reading about organizations like Soles4Souls has inspired Graney to look into initiatives like this which will benefit future impoverished regions.

With this knowledge, Channon and Perron spread the word about what they were trying to do.

"I think it's a great idea, obviously," said Hayden McLaren '10, who donated three pairs of shoes to Channon and Perron's cause. "It's really needed."

"We've had sneakers just sitting in our locker room for so long," said co-captain Amie Schumacher '10 of the Women's Track Team.

Schumacher and graduate student Katie DiCamillo of the team said that the women's team had donated between 30 and 40 sneakers in total.

"I thought it was a good opportunity to donate," Schumacher said.

"We had sneakers that were building up for the past years," DiCamillo said.

By donating those sneakers to victims in Haiti, "they could get a lot of life out of them," DiCamillo said.

Pat Desabato '13 also decided to get involved with the initiative. Desabato donated four sneakers to fellow track mates.

"We have shoes to spare," Desabato said.

These "stacks and stacks" of shoes that Channon and Perron described have inspired others to donate to the cause. Both parties said that faculty and staff members from the Canavan Sports Medicine Center, ROTC students, and other athletes also expressed interest in donating footwear.

Channon was wearing out lots of

pairs of shoes last semester. After hearing about the earthquake in Haiti and learning about the organization Soles4Souls, the opportunity arose to make a difference.

There have been attempts to donate track shoes in the past, but none were ever successfully completed.

Although local schools are usually taken into consideration when trying to find a location to donate to, this year Channon thought it would be best to donate their shoes to Haitians affected by the earthquake instead.

Channon and Perron have gotten a majority of their shipping of sneakers through Soles4Souls at City Sports. Stephen Walsh, head coach of Men's Track and Field, had no knowledge of what was going on until he bumped into Channon and Perron, but he has been supportive of their initiative ever since.

Although Channon and Perron have no ties with people who were personally affected by the earthquake, they said they can image the conditions they are living in and what they are going through.

"I'm sure some good footwear will help them out," Channon said.



Dominic Channon '12 and Emma Perron '11 have collected 72 pairs of barely used track sneakers to send to Haiti for the victims of the Jan. 12 earthquake.

COURTESY OF DOMINIC CHANNON '12



GRAPHIC BY DAN NIETO '11

visit the new thecowl.com and comment on any article



FEB. 26 - 28

Fri. 7:30 PM • Sat. 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM • Sun. 2:00 PM

DUNKIN' DONUTS CENTER
PROVIDENCE

FREE PIT PARTY • SAT. 11AM - 12:30PM
with TICKET to Saturday at 2pm

KIDS' TICKETS JUST \$10*!

*Ages 2-12. Not valid on Gold Circle or Front Row. All seats \$2 more day of show. Service charges, facility and handling fees may apply. No double discounts. Four kids' tickets allowed for every adult ticket purchased.

Buy tickets at **ticketmaster**® Retail Locations,
Dunkin' Donuts Center Box Office or call 1-800-745-3000



© 2010 Ford Motor Sports, Inc.

Suspicious Alumnus Asks to Enter Student Apartment

by Allison O'Connor '10
News Staff

SECURITY

On alumni weekend, Cunningham Hall residents received an unexpected visitor. A male subject knocked on the door of an apartment and told the student residents that he was an alumnus who had lived in that apartment several years ago. The man claimed that he had lost a ring and asked if he could go into the room and look in the closet for it.

"[He] went through the apartment, looked in the closet, said he found the ring, and left," said Sgt. David Marshall, supervisor of the Office of Safety and Security.

Upon further inspection, the students found nothing missing from the apartment. Providence College Security investigated both the man and the incident.

"He did tell the student actual things that happened...what year he was here, who lived in the room then, [and] the loss of the ring was actually legit," said Marshall.

It would have been impossible for the man to discover the ring, since the ring had been lost 10 years earlier, and the room had since been repainted and cleaned numerous times.

This incident has instigated a further promotion of on-campus safety tips.

"If a stranger was to come to the door [of an apartment or dorm], number one: don't let him in, and number two: if he gives you a story...tell him that he has the wrong room, and go to security," said Marshall. "I would suggest just calling us right away."

Aside from this incident, there have been no other reports of uninvited persons entering the dorms and apartments this year. College Security strongly advises students not to prop open doors, as leaving doors ajar and opening doors for strangers sets students up to become victims.

"Non-students should not be in residence halls, and if someone doesn't look right, contact us so that we can investigate," said Major John Leyden, executive director of Safety and Security. "Propped doors invite unwanted guests."

Other suggestions for safety within the gates of the College include utilizing the available campus resources such as the campus shuttle, student escorts, and emergency phones. Marshall encourages students to report any suspicious activity to Safety and Security right away.

"If something smells rotten, it usually is, [so] use your senses and call us, let us check it out," he said.

This semester, a new reporting system has been initiated at Providence College to allow students to report any incidents or suspicious activities completely anonymously right from their cell phones. The service is called TipNow, and is used at several other colleges and universities throughout

the nation, including Quinnipiac University and Santa Clara University.

As of mid-January, students and members of the College community can now simply send a text message to PC@tipnow.org. The phone number remains untraceable, and the text message is sent to emergency supervisors and sergeants, as well as to the dispatcher.

Thus far, Safety and Security has received five tips via this new text messaging system. Most recently, a witness reported to PC@tipnow.org that a green SUV backed into a pole in front of Cunningham Hall and that the subjects in the car got out and ran.

"This person told everything that went on, so [Safety and Security] was able to tell the police exactly what happened," said Marshall.

Marshall emphasized that this system is very effective and encourages students to use it.

"Students can assist in providing a safer campus by being vigilant and contacting the Office of Safety and Security at extension 2222 or PC@tipnow.org whenever suspicious activity is observed," said Major Leyden.

It is also recommended that students lock cars and secure any electronics or valuables safely in car trunks or in out-of-sight locations. Recently, there have been stolen GPSs from cars on campus.

"We had three [stolen GPSs] last week in front of Alumni Hall, in the dirt lot area," said Marshall.

These instances all happened between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

"It's not happening at night, it's happening during the day," he said. "We're investigating right now and hopefully it doesn't happen again."

Marshall also suggested that female students attend a semester-long women's self defense program that is currently being hosted by PC Security. The group meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in Feinstein Academic Center for one hour. The program lasts for eight to 12 weeks, and teaches women self defense moves called RAD, boxing skills, and other important facts and physical maneuvers that will allow them to defend themselves in situations if necessary. The course averages 35 girls per semester and is a beneficial way to prevent students from becoming victims.

By acting wisely, exercising caution in daily activities, and reporting any suspicious activities, students can ensure that life on campus remains as safe as possible. Students should make sure to close first floor apartment and dorm windows while the residence is unoccupied, and exercise care with PC ID cards or report any lost or missing cards as soon as possible in order to prevent fraudulent ID uses.

PC Safety and Security is constantly working hard to make students feel safe, so students must take part in this effort as well.

"Students should feel safe on campus and I am confident they do," said Major Leyden.

HAITI: Slowly Recovering

by Kaitlyn Monast '13
News Staff

HAITI

Tremors tore apart families, homes, and hearts over one month ago in Haiti. The earthquake that took thousands of lives, changed the life of one Providence College student, Claudia Mortimer '13, who was in Port-au-Prince when the earthquake hit. Although the earthquake has passed and Mortimer is now back at the College, her story is far from finished.

"I don't know if life will be normal for a long time," said Mortimer.

Mortimer, along with her younger brother, four cousins, and her aunt evacuated Haiti and came to America. Mortimer's older brother left Haiti one week before the earthquake to go back to college in the United States. Mortimer's mother, Chantal, however, chose to remain in Haiti. She is currently living with an aunt

to keep on going," said Chantal.

Her nine-year-old son, Brian, evacuated Haiti and went to stay with Sebastien, his older brother. He attends the fourth grade in Florida where Sebastien attends the University of Miami. Mortimer also evacuated Haiti with her brothers and came back to Providence College.

They all went to live with family in New York. Mortimer stresses that this is a temporary situation.

"I don't know what the rest of my family's plans are because none of us are expecting nor want to stay in the states," said Mortimer. "Everything is temporary. [It] all depends on how the country progresses. We won't stay here because it's not home."

Meanwhile, Haiti is in the recovery process. The U.S. embassy reopened and is allowing people to renew their visas, but Mortimer's uncle still remains without a renewed visa. Shops are open from "time to time," but the streets are littered with vendors selling small supplies for high prices.

"I HOPE HAITI CAN REMAIN STRONG. WE'VE BEEN GOING THROUGH SO MUCH ALREADY."

while trying to rebuild their home and business.

During the earthquake, their home suffered great damage. With help from Mortimer's uncle and aunt, Mortimer's mother is cleaning and rebuilding both the home and the business, spending most of her time picking up the broken debris that was scattered everywhere.

"The first thing in my mind is trying to put the business back on its feet to have a source of income once again," said Chantal Mortimer.

Before the earthquake, Mortimer's family owned a print shop where they would print photographs. Mortimer and her mother feel that the most important thing now is to rebuild their customer base, although now people have "other things on their minds besides developing pictures."

After the business is back on its feet, the second thing on Mortimer's mother's mind is to get her family back into Haiti. While Haiti is in the recovery process, Mortimer's family just waits and continues with their everyday lives as much as possible.

"The world did not end, so we have

Mortimer's mother explained how people wait until dark and then go around stealing things. Prices have been said to be dropping, now ranging only about 10 percent above the prices before the quake, but crime rates are still above average.

The people of Haiti have begun to rebuild homes together. Many people whose houses were too damaged have now pitched sturdy tents as shelters instead of sleeping on the street.

Many organizations all around the world are currently in Haiti treating the wounded, burying the dead, and trying to rebuild the lives of the living.

All of Mortimer's immediate family plans to return to their home in Haiti as soon as possible. When the home is rebuilt, depending on Haiti's progress, Brian will return and continue school. Mortimer and her older brother will be unable to return until they have vacation from school.

"I hope Haiti can remain strong," said Mortimer. "We've been going through so much already. I want to see a better Haiti and I hope that we learn from this experience."

Women's Rugby

Informational Meeting

•Where: Upper Concannon Meeting Room

•When: Thursday February 25th 7 PM

•Come learn about the team and the sport in a short informational meeting.

•Email pcruggers@gmail.com if you have any questions.



PROJECT HAITI WEEKLY UPDATE

French President, Nicholas Sarkozy, visited Haiti Wednesday, Feb. 17, to pledge aid. He is the first French president ever to visit Haiti.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

UNICEF/Save the Children have established over 30 child-friendly spaces to protect vulnerable children, and one special residential care center is now operational.

Sears Eager to Foster Relationship with Students

by Valerie Ferdon '12
Assistant News Editor

CAMPUS NEWS

Dealing with everything from roommate conflict to fixing leaky pipes, Steve Sears, former director of the Office of Residence Life, has been committed to improving the daily lives of students throughout his 12 years at Providence College. For the duration of the semester, he will have the opportunity to continue his service to students while acting as interim associate vice president of Student Affairs and dean of students.

The position was made vacant this winter as Chris Fortunato, hired in Feb. of 2008, stepped down to pursue a position at Harvard Kennedy School in Cambridge, Mass.

While Sears will serve as interim for the duration of the semester, according to Rev. Brendan Murphy, O.P., vice president of Student Affairs, the administration will begin a search process for a permanent dean of Students at the conclusion of the school year.

"With the departure of Dean Christopher Fortunato, the Student Affairs Division could not afford to have a vacancy in such an important position for an extended period

of time," said Murphy. "Over the years, I have worked closely with Dr. Sears and have always admired his commitment to Providence College and to our students."

Named Dean of Residence Life in 2005, Sears will bring to Student Affairs four years of experience in leadership and decision making.

"One thing about Residence Life is that it seems like a lot of things are a crisis," said Sears. "You have to think on your feet a lot, respond quickly, have correct answers, and use good judgment. I think that experience has really prepared me for this role to an extent."

According to Murphy, it was exactly those skills that led to Sears' appointment.

"I am very confident in Dr. Sears' ability and leadership," said Murphy. "He is a team player who values input and collaboration. I know he looks forward to working with students, faculty, and staff in his new interim capacity."

Sears dedicated the last few years to providing students with a happy and healthy living experience at Providence College, and plans to put forth similar efforts while in his new position.

"I spent time in the military and spent time at all these different colleges but I am in awe at this opportunity," said Sears. "Dean of Students - students, that is what it

has always been about, to me. The students are the ones who make this college thrive and make this a wonderful place to live, work, grow, and learn."

Student input is considered a driving force in changes made within the College. There is now a Student Life Advisory Board, which is a combination of student leaders and representatives from Student Affairs who meet to discuss ideas and thoughts about improving the College community. Sears acknowledged how he seeks input from all students, not the same few who seem to be featured often due to their involvement in Student Congress and other high-profile organizations on campus.

"For me, it is about being open to everyone," said Sears. "I want to meet as many students as I can. We end up meeting with student leaders a lot—those students that are involved in clubs and organizations. Even good comes from meeting with students who go through our judicial process and student conduct. But I also want to meet that student who is just part of the community and not involved in a lot of things. I want to hear from them, what is their experience like here, what is their quality of life, how can we work together?"

Input, both positive and negative, will be welcomed from students in the upcoming months.

"What is important to me is being transparent, being open to criticism," said Sears. "Dialogue is an essential part of this position, dialogue with everyone in the community."

Sears has been working closely with the student body in the few short weeks he has been the dean of students. He specifically mentioned how great it was to be involved with Student Congress in the process of getting *USA Today* to be distributed on campus, and looks forward to future legislation.

Despite all of his qualifications and experience, he expressed how this time as interim will be a learning experience nonetheless.

"I would be naive to say that I don't have a lot to learn," said Sears. "I have a lot of growth and development ahead of me not only in this position, but in life in general. It has been a learning curve to a certain extent, but the support from Fr. Murphy and all our constituents has been so positive."

There are no set details in regard to the search for a permanent dean of students, although Sears mentioned his interim position is scheduled to end in July.

"I will keep the campus community informed with respect to the search process," said Murphy. "As is customary, there will be student involvement in this process."

PROJECT HAITI WEEKLY UPDATE

*

The Foyer de la Patience des Infantes, the orphanage in Port-au-Prince, holds 150 children. UNICEF estimates there were 380,000 orphans in Haiti before the earthquake.

MONEY: Borrowed to Remedy Deficit

Unknown Where Extra Money Will be Taken From, How Much Needed

Continued from front page

\$94,000. The College receives money from the federal government for work study, but the money from the federal government is usually not enough to meet the work study need. Thus, it

"I HATE TO TAKE MONEY AWAY FROM NEED BASED AID, BUT I MIGHT HAVE TO DO THAT"

contributes some of its own funds to work study. Too many students were approved for off-campus work study this year which caused the financial situation in Feinstein Institute.

"To this day I don't know how many students have been hired," said Lena.

In order to remedy the situation Lena is going to have to take money from another source on campus and add it to Feinstein's budget.

"I don't know exactly how much money I am going to need to get," said Lena.

He is also not sure from where he is going to take the extra funds. He said one possibility may be to take money from the College's contingency fund, which is reserved for financial aid.

"I hate to take money away from need based aid and put it towards work study, but I might have to do that," said Lena.

Another possibility he is exploring is reassessing all work study budgets on campus. Any on campus work study allotments which have not been

completely distributed will be given to Feinstein for off-campus work study. There is some doubt as to the funds left over in other on-campus work study budgets will be enough to make up for the deficit Feinstein is experiencing.

"I will use work study money that is

in another budget first but I know that I won't have enough so I'm going to have to go somewhere else," said Lena.

However, Lena does not want students to think of work study as an "open check book."

"The bottom line here is that we all have budgets," said Lena.

In order for all work study providers to stay on budget it is important that students do not attempt to earn more money than they were allotted.

Steps are now being taken to ensure that a deficit such as this does not happen again. Lena said the person who is in charge of approving students for off-campus work study approved too many. The responsibility for approving students will now reside directly with Feinstein. Lena wants Sickinger to be more involved in the process and have more responsibility for the process than he has in the past.

"For me the logical place to keep this is with Feinstein," said Lena.

Students do not have to worry about any delay in receiving their

paychecks. Lena said they will continue to receive paychecks for their off-campus work study jobs as long as they turn in timesheets.

Lena explained that what he will have to do is "take out a loan," and the budget for off-campus work study will have to be balanced at the end of the year. He said that he understands that many students depend on off-campus work study and that Feinstein Institute is an important instrument for reaching out to the community.

Sickinger is working closely with Lena to remedy the deficit, as is Oliveira.

According to Oliveira, seven percent of all federal work study money is earmarked specifically for off-campus work study. She said that Feinstein can only use the federal money allocated for work study because it employs students off campus. Normally between 50 and 60 students are approved for off-campus jobs.

SENIORS!



Make your gift by February 18 to ensure your engraved brick is in the ground before Commencement!

The first 100 students to donate \$100 will receive an exclusive *Always a 10* long sleeve tee

WWW.GIVETOPC.ORG

Luger's Death Casts Dark Shadow on Olympics

by Molly Driessen '13
World Staff

CANADA

The Olympic Ceremonies celebrate global cooperation and ignite a hope for future victories in the name of patriotism. Nodar Kumaritashvili, however, was denied his chance to represent his country before the Games officially opened. The 21-year-old native of the Republic of Georgia was the victim of a fatal ice luge crash during his fifth training run of the week at the Whistler Sliding Center in Vancouver, Canada, on Friday, Feb. 12.

Kumaritashvili, who was ranked 44th in the World Cup Standings, neared 90 miles per hour as he rounded the final turn of the track. Losing control of his sled, Kumaritashvili crashed, bounced off a sidewall, and was thrown over a concrete wall into vertical, unpadded supports. Medics were called but he was pronounced dead at the hospital.

According to *The New York Times*, Kumaritashvili was the first Olympian to be killed during training or competition since the 1964 Innsbruck Games. As a response to Kumaritashvili's death, Georgian officials are thinking about boycotting the 2014 Olympics.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police and British Columbian officials closed the course for inquiry but reopened it Saturday morning for men's training.

Before Kumaritashvili's crash, some critics had argued that the \$100 million plus venue was too technically demanding. While some alterations to the track have been made in order to improve its safety, the luger himself may have been just as responsible for the crash.

The Wall Street Journal reported that "the International Luge Federation blamed the fatal crash on the luger, not the track, saying he had failed to compensate properly when he slid into the curve. But the federation's chairman, Josef Fendt, said Saturday that the track proved to be faster than its designers intended it to be."

According to *The New York Times*, critics of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) have asserted that the games are now driven by sports such as the ski cross and snowboarding, which are more dangerous for the athletes. In addition, improved technology and heightened competition has allowed higher speeds to be obtained in sports such as the luge. *The New York Times* also reported that the Vancouver Organizing Committee officials followed guidelines but did not adhere to precedent while doing so. For example, teams were not allowed as much training time on the venues for the 2010 games as they were given in the past. This has started rumors that Canada has been looking for an advantage over visiting competitors.

Kumaritashvili was given a brief ceremony in Vancouver on Monday, but his body has been flown home



AP PHOTO/ELISE AMENDOLA

Nodar Kumaritashvili crashed during the Olympic men's Luge practice on Friday, Feb. 12.

to Georgia. According to *The New York Times*, "The Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili said an athlete's mistake shouldn't result in his death." David Kumaritashvili, the luger's father, has given several interviews regarding his son's death. He told *USA Today* that his son "called [him] and said that the track was very dangerous." In response to rumors regarding a lawsuit, *The Wall Street*

Journal has quoted Kumaritashvili's father as saying, "What lawsuit? What kind of a person would do that? My son is dead and that wouldn't bring him back."

The New York Times quoted a written statement from IOC President Jacques Rogge released on Friday. Rogge said that "the whole Olympic family is struck by this tragedy, which clearly casts a shadow over these Games."

Coalition Troops Disrupt Taliban in Marja

by Kevin Cassidy '11
World Staff

AFGHANISTAN

American troops, with the help of Afghan and British forces, seized crucial positions throughout the Taliban stronghold of Marja on Saturday, Feb. 13, according to *The New York Times*. The forces encountered minimal fighting as they began house-to-house searches. There were two casualties, one each from American and British troops. The Afghan army made up the majority of the coalition, but did not suffer any casualties.

Major General Gordon Messenger, a British military spokesman, told reporters in London that commanders on the ground are "very pleased with the beginning efforts confusing and disorienting the Taliban" in Marja, a Taliban dominated agricultural area dotted with villages.

Roughly 6,000 American, British, and Afghan troops quickly moved into the area on Saturday, overwhelming any Taliban resistance that remained there. The main objective of the troops was to secure key bridges and roads. The heaviest fighting occurred when the troops fanned out across the area where they encountered frequent and intense fighting in places. The pattern may suggest harder fighting lies ahead.

According to CNN, President Barack Obama was closely following the operation and was expected to



An American soldier in Afghanistan walking past an Afghan cemetery on Tuesday Feb. 16.

meet with National Security Advisor General Jim Jones about the success of the operation later in the day on Saturday. General Jones recently returned home from Pakistan and Afghanistan where he met with U.S. and Afghan leaders, and the International Security Assistance Force-Afghanistan. He had the opportunity to travel to Kabul, Kandahar, Jalalabad, and Panjshir. General Stanley McChrystal, the U.S. military commander in Afghanistan, has been asked to update Obama on Sunday as well. NATO officials reported zero civilian casualties,

but amid the chaos, this figure was impossible to verify. American commanders said the first day was a huge success, with American troops seizing intersections, government buildings, and one of the city's main bazaars in the center of the town. Part of General McChrystal's new plan called for Marines to meet with local Afghans to reassure them and ask them to help search for bombs hidden by the Taliban.

Mohammed Dawood Ahmadi, a spokesperson for Helmand Province's governor, told reporters, "We now occupy all 11 strategic outposts

across the Marja neighborhood." Hundreds of booby-traps and bombs are believed to be buried in the roads, houses, and footpaths.

The Marja area is the Taliban's largest sanctuary of about 80 acres of farmland, villages, and irrigation canals. Afghan and American troops believe the Taliban occupy a number of opium factories that are helping to finance the war. The attack today is the largest since the war began nearly eight years ago.

Abdul Rahim Wardak, the Afghan defense minister, said in a news conference in Kabul that, "based on our intelligence reports, some of the Taliban have left the area. But we still expected there to be a several hundred. Just yesterday, we received reports that reinforcements had arrived from neighboring provinces." Wardak added, "Our main goal in this joint operation is not to kill insurgents, but to expand the government's influence and protect the civilian population."

According to intelligence reports, dozens to hundreds of Taliban insurgents probably fled the area of Marja in the days before the assault. Afghan and American commanders broadcasted their plans hoping to achieve this result.

After securing the area and removing Taliban insurgents, the American Army intends to import an entire Afghan civil administration, with nearly 2,000 Afghan police officers, to help keep the Taliban out of the area for good.

Greece Hit With Budget Crisis

by Mackenzie Mango '10
World Staff

GREECE

According to CNN, Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou believes the European Union could do more to stand by his country amidst a budget crisis, which threatens both E.U. political unity and budget rules.

"In the battle against the perceptions and the psychology of the markets, the E.U. was timid, at the least," Papandreou said Saturday, according to CNN.

"Greece is neither a political nor an economic superpower to go it alone in this battle," he said, according to CNN, two days after E.U. leaders declined specific promises of action for the country. The European Union called upon Greece this week to do whatever is necessary to reduce its rising budget deficit.

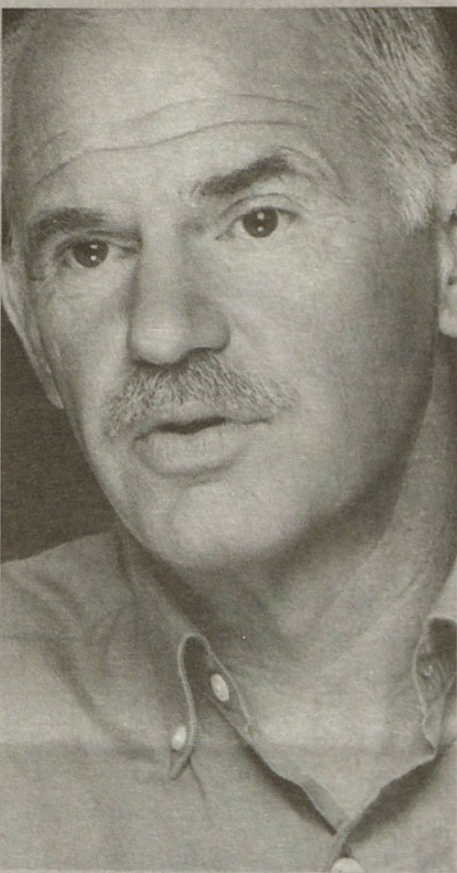
According to CNN, many years of unrestrained spending, cheap lending, and failure to implement financial reforms left Greece badly exposed when the global economic downturn struck. New E.U. President Herman Van Rompuy did not announce a deal to rescue Greece but said European countries would be prepared to step in if it is deemed necessary.

"Euro-area member states will take determined and coordinated action if needed to safeguard financial stability in the euro area as a whole," he said. Stocks surged immediately after the announcement, but there are "continued concerns about what the E.U. is going to do about Greece," said Tom Schrader, managing director at a European financial services company. Thus far, European officials have forecast a budget deficit of 12.2 percent of the GDP in 2010, according to CNN.

Under E.U. rules, member countries' budget deficits should only be three percent of their GDP.

In recent weeks, Greece has tried to announce measures to fix the problem, but global markets have not reacted favorably, and the Greek public has subsequently launched street protests against the proposals.

The European Commission, the executive body of the European Union, will monitor Greece's progress together with the assistance of the European Central Bank. The European Commission has indicated that they will propose additional measures as needed. The first European assessment of Greece's progress will be conducted next month.



COURTESY OF PIAZZA DEL POPOLO / FLICKR

Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou is trying to keep his country from financial ruin.

Growth of Fast Trains in China

by Tommy Cody '13
World Staff

CHINA

According to *The New York Times*, the 664 mile, 11 hour journey from Guangzhou to Wuhan, China can now be made in a little under three hours.

The line from Guangzhou to Wuhan is only one of 42 high-speed lines, which are either already operational or set to open by 2012. The United States has quickly fallen behind the whirlwind pace set by Asia and Europe. America's first high speed line—an 84-mile stretch connecting Tampa and Orlando—is not set to open until 2014. U.S. President Barack Obama voiced his concern stating, "Other countries aren't waiting. They want those jobs. China wants those jobs. Germany wants those jobs. They are going after them hard, making the investments required."

Obama's fear is a reasonable one. The development of clean and energy efficient transportation promises to boost China's already competitive economy. The network of super fast trains will connect an area similar to the size of the U.S.. The new train system will provide a huge export industry of new technology that could catapult China into the forefront of the fast-train industry.

Behind the seemingly innumerable benefits of the fast-trains looms a massive price tag. Because of the 2008 financial crisis, factories faced the threat of immense layoffs. In response to the financial threat, the Chinese government poured more than \$100 billion in stimulus funds into the project in an effort to complete the train system by 2012. Administrators also organized 110,000 workers just for the route from Beijing to Shanghai. A one way, economy class ticket for a trip from Guangzhou to Wuhan costs \$72, \$50 more than the regular train, which

takes 11 hours. \$72 is equivalent to one to three weeks' pay for an assembly line worker.

China is anticipating that come 2012, there will be 42 lines of bullet passenger trains traveling at world record average speeds of 215 miles per hour. The expected top speed for the train traveling between Tampa and Orlando will be 168 miles per hour.

Over the past several weeks, Chinese officials have implied that they may slow the stimulus spending. If the stimulus spending does slow, China runs the risk of not finishing all 42 routes until 2013 or even 2014. A number of transportation experts are worried that China has over invested in bullet trains that could require operating subsidies like those used to maintain highway systems.

A mammoth new train station was finished on Jan. 30 on the outskirts of Guangzhou, in order to support the influx of high-speed traffic flow into and out of the city. The new stations made for the futuristic trains have been constructed in industrial districts in order to avoid the bulldozing for entire urban neighborhoods. Subways and rail lines to the stations are still under construction, so the passengers currently take 40-minute bus rides from the city center to the station.

Airlines are beginning to lose customers to the bullet trains, which travel faster than a commercial jet at takeoff. The trains require extremely flat land to safely cruise at high speeds. Due to escalating tax revenues, a national savings rate of 40 percent, and workers who earn a meager \$100 a month, China has made the construction of the groundbreaking high-speed train an affordable project. Even with low cost labor, the "tunnel filled" line from Wuhan to Guangzhou cost \$17 billion to construct.

China's massive labyrinth of bullet train lines may become the new standard for high-speed rail travel in the U.S. and Europe.

FRIAR FINANCE

101

BY MICHAEL LEPRI '10 WORLD STAFF

Since home foreclosures and mortgage defaults began to increase, the market for Mortgage-Backed Securities (MBS) has struggled. Once one of the most popular types of asset backed financing vehicles, Mortgage-Backed Securities were bought and sold by Wall Street firms, ultimately leading to many going bankrupt or being bailed out when the market collapsed.

Securitization is a form of finance in which many similar assets are pooled together in order to distribute risk effectively. For the past two years, the market for MBS has been weak, but Bill Felts, senior vice president at Citigroup Inc.'s mortgage unit, said, "You're going to see people come to market to some extent but it's just going to be 'dipping the toe in the water' this year...I'm hearing more talk about it."

Last year at this time, I wasn't hearing anything. Many mortgage and securities units have begun hiring in order to deal with the securitization rebound. Although recent experience has caused many to worry about the future viability of securitized assets, if

properly structured they can be very beneficial for borrowers and lenders.

Historically, banks and investors would have to hold assets like mortgages until maturity. By extending a longterm loan, like a mortgage, the bank would also need to tie up its funds for a considerable amount of time.

With the advent of securitization banks began to sell off big assets, like mortgage loans, and receive cash for them right away. This increased the number of loans that banks were able to make and lowered transactions costs.

A recent study by the American Securitization Forum found that mortgage securitization produces significant economic benefits for borrowers in the form of lower borrowing costs. The current reduction in securitization activity has had a negative impact on lending capacity at banks who have been forced to hold mortgages rather than sell them off.

Besides just mortgages, securitization is important for cutting other borrowing

costs, like those for students. The U.S. government created the Student Loan Marketing Association or Sallie Mae in 1995 in order to facilitate student loan securitization.

There is new legislation that could affect the securitization market in the near future. New FDIC proposals, including one where banks might have to hold home mortgage loans for a year before securitizing them could pose problems. According to Aline van Duyn of the *Financial Times*, these new rules which are "supposed to discourage the underwriting of bad quality loans such as risky subprime mortgages, may make securitization so expensive that it is no longer a viable source of funding."

Right now securitization costs are very high due to the huge losses suffered in the financial crisis. John Dugan, the comptroller of the currency, whose office regulates many U.S. banks, said, "If we [regulators] do not appropriately calibrate and co-ordinate our actions, rather than reviving a healthy securitization

market, we risk perpetuating its decline, with significant and long-lasting effects on credit availability." It is important for the government regulation to be fair when it comes to securitization in order to take into account the effects it will have on all American borrowers and investors.

The problems with securitization during the housing crisis had little to do with the process itself. The following were the main issues: (1) Mortgages with adjustable rates caused problems for home owners who foreclosed when their rates jumped. (2) Government backing of subprime lending and lax lending practices gave loans to those unworthy. (3) Credit rating agencies had significant incentives to give the MBS high ratings even if they did not deserve them. Addressing these issues directly should prevent the MBS and securitization market from running into major harms in the future.

Does PC Have a Drinking Problem?

Ask The Students: Four Commentary Writers Tell Us What They Think



by Jenn DiPirro '12
Commentary Staff

Her Answer: Yes and No.

I would be lying through my teeth if I said that Providence College students do not drink. Some even drink excessively. However, I do not believe that the College itself has a worse drinking problem than any other school in the country.

Unlike many other schools, Providence College is located in a run-down, lower class neighborhood with countless area bars and liquor stores that thrive off of PC students' wallets. Needless to say, a false form of identification is required for students under 21, but it certainly does not have to be a legitimate replica. It is also quite easy to retrieve a fake on this campus. In regards to partying and drinking, this area is comparable to putting a kid

in a candy store.

With all of these factors taken into consideration, also take into account the fact that the College puts little or no effort into planning programs, on or off campus, in which people can partake on a Friday or Saturday night. PC After Hours is a step in the right direction, but there is only so much participation that a coffee house with trivia games can get. I have a hard time blaming the PC students for drinking because I do not believe that the administration has done enough to entertain us.

Although there are countless consequences for being caught under the influence on this campus; people still drink. Want to know why? Because since the dawn of time, college students have drank. It goes along with the territory. Therefore, until the College makes some room in their budget for fun sober events, and until the neighborhood is cleaned up, this college will have a drinking problem. I do not believe that it is the students' drinking problem, the problem begins with Providence College itself.



by Jeff Gahan '11
Commentary Staff

His Answer: No.

Alcohol has always been the topic of debate at Providence College among students, teachers, parents, administrators, and the community in general. Even though it may seem like students are often going up against these other groups, there appears to be some disagreement among students as well. My opinion towards alcohol consumption at Providence College is one that is informed by being 21 years old. My feelings towards alcohol on campus may be much different than half of the school, since the majority of the kids on campus are not 21 or older.

I don't necessarily feel as though there is more of a drinking problem at PC than at other colleges in our same situation. Catholic liberal arts colleges are very similar in their views of the week and weekend: Work hard,

play hard. I would say that bigger universities that have a Greek life on campus are much worse off than we are here at Providence College. Sure there are parties and bars readily available for students to access, but one of the components of college is figuring out who we are, and finding ourselves. Getting to know how much one can drink, and the limits of that, are an important part of personal growth in college.

However, there is something to say about our school's alcohol policy. It seems that the school's policy regarding alcohol consumption in the rooms in which there are 21-year-olds almost promotes unhealthy drinking habits. Students are required to keep minimal amounts of alcohol in their private rooms for them to not be easily accessible by students who enter the room and are not 21. So the school almost requires that if alcohol is going to be consumed by a 21-year-old on campus, is it to be done behind closed doors and alone? If I were to think of an actual alcohol problem, that behavior would be it.



by Andy Kowal '10
Commentary Staff

His Answer: Yes.

Even asking if Providence College has a drinking problem seems a little ridiculous to me. You show me an Irish-Catholic school that does not have a drinking problem and I'll tell you they have Guinness shooting out of the water fountains. So yes, PC does have a drinking problem and that should be fairly obvious.

I am straining myself to think of any events on campus (including formal dinners with faculty and staff) that students do not pre-game for. Every dance is a new opportunity to creatively sneak in rips and to be really drunk while looking really classy (I can rock a tux like you wouldn't believe). On Friday and Saturday nights (and even Thursdays most times) the *only* thing to do is go out and drink. The library and gym close early so even if you wanted to stay in and do work you couldn't, because if you try to work in your room you won't be able to concentrate with all the drunk people next door making noise.

For at least the past four years that I have been here, *The Princeton Review*

has rated Providence College in one of the top three spots for its categories of "Lots of Hard Alcohol" and "Lots of Beer." This year we are ranked Number Two and Number Three, respectively. (It should be mentioned it is also ranked one of the best schools in the Northeast.) Even with the College's misguided rule of no hard alcohol on campus, we are still higher than hundreds of schools.

In an undergraduate population of only 3,800 students, there is not a lot of diversity. Those who do not drink every weekend are ridiculously outnumbered by those who do. Therefore the normal thing to do every weekend is get drunk and go out to a bar. I am not passing judgment as I am complicit in this culture, as well. I am simply saying that without drinking and going out, there is nothing to do here.

The real "problem" with drinking at PC is not the drinking itself but what it is used for. People take these drunken opportunities to tell their friends how they really feel about them, to tell someone they are attracted to them, or to act crazy without too much judgment passed on them. Needing alcohol to do all these things is the real issue with drinking at PC. But, however one wants to define it, it is clear that PC does have a drinking problem.



by Chris Slavin '12
Asst. Commentary Editor

His Answer: Yes.

Yeah, we do, and to understand one reason why, I think it's important to look at the type of students that Providence College particularly attracts. The majority of students here were raised in Catholic households. This is certainly not true for every one of us, but let's face it, PC is not exactly the United Nations of colleges as it is far from boasting a diversity-rich student body. Most students pipeline here from the strict halls of private Catholic high schools and the grace-saying dining rooms of suburban Catholic homes. For most Providence College students, their pre-college lives were filled with, and restricted by, itchy school uniforms and vigilant parents. So guess what happens when the altar boys and choir girls are free from the watchful eyes of their parents for the first time? That's right, they are ready to break loose and go wild. Drinking allows for going wild.

By the time the average male PC student steps on campus for the first time, the suffocating mandatory tie around his neck has been ripped off and replaced by a backwards hat — the coolness of which is determined by how much it looks like it is from the year 1994. Those babies weren't allowed in high school. Once most PC students get here, they are ready to do *all* of the things that weren't allowed in high school. Drinking, for most, is the nucleus of all of these things. Once most PC students get here, drinking is very appealing because it was something, for the majority of them, tabooed throughout their entire pre-college lives — the stern Catholic high schools and households.

Drinking particularly appeals to the average student who Providence College attracts. Many Catholic students want to come here because we are a Catholic institution, but these are students who once they are at college, loose of the restrictions they have always had on them, are ready to have fun. This is the type of student that our campus is almost entirely composed of and therefore, yes, I say Providence College has a drinking problem.

TANGENTS & TIRADES

No Snow, No Solace. Even though everyone loves a great snow day, it seems as though this past one was neither great nor productive. With the basketball loss the night before, everyone was looking forward to doing something fun the next day to forget about the loss. Upon finding out that classes were cancelled at the very end of the heart-breaking loss, the students at the Dunk were relieved that the next day might bring about some fun in which to distract ourselves. But when there were no snow ball fights the next day, and no sledding (partly because of the lack of trays from Ray), students were forced to do work or other boring activities that didn't provide any solace from the loss the past evening. Once again PC's thoughts turned to hopes that our team will pick up speed in the next couple of weeks before going into the Big East Tournament. And if the close loss against Nova and the win against UConn provide enough hope, our loving PC fans will stay true until the final game of the season, just like every season. — Jeff Gahan '11

Wanted: Lower Ears. I need a haircut; there is no doubt about it. It's down past my nose now in front...and I don't have a very small nose. I used to cut it when it got long enough to poke me in the eye. After all, that's pretty annoying. But now, I don't know what's gotten into me. The problem is, I don't really like paying for haircuts. It seems like a waste of money. Sure, a barber has a skill that he had to work for, but it's not like we couldn't survive without it. I don't have a lot of extra money to throw around, but as a result I have a lot of extra hair to throw around. Well, whatever, so I look like one of the Hanson brothers or something. If it bothers you so much, you can cut my hair for free, deal? — Ben Perry '10

Alum Good For RI. Recently, Congressman Patrick Kennedy (D-R.I.) announced he would not seek re-election. While some might welcome this news (Kennedy has had some issues in the past), I had mixed feelings. For one thing I love elections and they are usually only competitive when an incumbent is not on the ballot. But, I live in Rhode Island's other congressional district so I cannot vote. Regardless of anything about his personal struggles I believe that Kennedy has been a great representative for Rhode Island. In a place where the power you wield is determined on seniority and what committee you sit on, Kennedy has been in the house for eight terms and sits on the very important House Appropriations Committee. Through his work on mental health, hate crimes, and civil rights, Rhode Island should be very grateful to this Providence College alum. — Andy Kowal '10

When Extending Rights is Wrong. "You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law," states the typical Miranda warning. Miranda rights came into existence in the 1960s via a U.S. Supreme Court decision to ensure criminal suspects arrested in the United States were fairly afforded their Fifth Amendment rights. Nowhere in the Constitution does it say that those rights apply to non-American citizens, yet the Obama administration has staunchly defended its practice of reading Miranda rights to enemies of war captured on the battlefield as well as trying suspected terrorists in civilian courts. Shouldn't acts of terrorism be treated differently than a DUI? President Obama believes this new policy initiative proves to the world that America is committed to fair justice for all, but he fails to recognize that his actions are actually portrayed as immeasurably weak. — Joe Sirianni '10

A Deeper Look At Valentine's Day



by Jeremiah Begley '10
Commentary Staff

CAMPUS

Another St. Valentine's Day has come and gone, and with it the annual fit of cultural schizophrenia over love and romance. There is, of course, a certain contingent who remain generally pro-romance but object to the Feb. 14 hoopla as a contrived and commercialized holiday driven entirely by merchandisers. Although not my own, this is certainly a defensible position. Far more troubling, however, is the now-common hatred of last week's ex-feast simply because it is a day consecrated to the passions of the heart. Underlying this sentiment is a pathological but understandable

opportunity to exercise and cultivate virtue. Instead of thinking of it as a cause of massive stress and probable mishap, we ought to see it as the perfect time to take a chance that our feelings are reciprocated—a leap of faith, the evidence of things not seen. It is the perfect time to believe that what we have long wished to come about, can—an occasion for hope. Above all, it is the perfect time for love.

True love is helped and reinforced by gifts and gestures, but it is never contingent upon a benefit to him or her who freely gives it. True love is more than just a feeling or an emotion. True love is a willing of another's good, a willing of it so fervently that the other's good becomes your own. This willing eventually results in a profound unselfing, a complete evaporation of the "I." It is an act of the

“THIS LOVE IS SO POWERFUL THAT ONE CAN JUSTLY SAY A MARRIAGE IS EACH SPOUSE'S PATH TO SALVATION.”

hatred of romantic love itself.

In almost every case, those of the latter persuasion feel the way they do on account of unpleasant past experiences, or because of a present lack of romantic prospects. Because this is not a fully rational position, it would be somewhat pointless to offer arguments by way of rebuttal. I do suggest, however, that the ever-increasing prevalence of deep dissatisfaction with romantic love is not at all surprising. In fact, it is a virtually inevitable consequence of the societal framework in which we attempt to effect and experience love and romance.

Valentine's Day is not problematic because of what it celebrates, but because of our own attitudes about what love and romance really are. It is not pernicious primarily because of its hyper-commercialization, but because of its hyper-sexualization. It has always been potentially painful—the course of true love, after all, never did run smooth—but the pain has exploded since the sexual revolution overthrew the mutuality of romantic understanding between the sexes.

Too many women, inclined toward obsessive concern with the accident of relation, tyrannically demand various quasi-sacramental outward evidences of the invisible, intangible inward disposition of love—candy, flowers, enormous stuffed animals. Too many men, whose priorities as a group have never been mysterious, more or less overtly regard the large 2/14 cash outflow as the price of admission to the pre-marital *boudoir*. This vast gulf between the sexes' expectations is a perilous chasm indeed, one which claims another legion of victims each February.

St. Valentine's Day, properly understood, is a pink, red, and golden

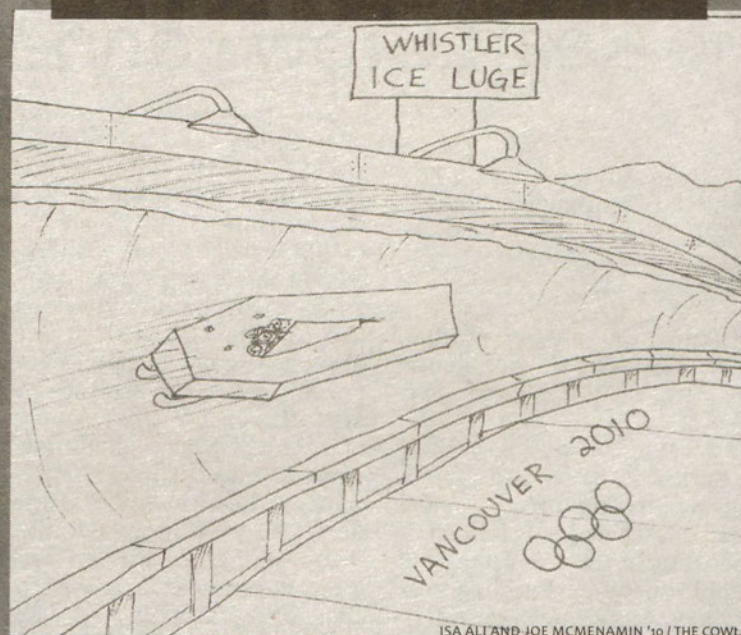
will which results in the abnegation of the will itself.

This love finds its most perfect manifestation when body and soul together are united in marriage, the end goal of any properly ordered romance. This love is so powerful that one can justly say a marriage is each spouse's path to salvation—a husband and wife, so to speak, love each other into heaven. This love is not always pleasant, and it is never easy. It demands that one do incredibly difficult things as well as easy ones.

Ultimately, however, it is arguably the best part of human life. Even Pope Benedict XVI, the world's least eligible bachelor for almost five years now, points out in his encyclical *Deus Caritas Est* that “Marriage based on exclusive and definitive love becomes the icon of the relationship between God and his people and vice versa.” St. Valentine's Day, then, can and should be recovered and recast as a celebration of the good of marriage—which is, by some of the various and sundry accounts of the holiday's origin, a solid historical interpretation—which in turn is really a celebration of the prospect of eternal beatitude.

So for those who were lonely, jilted, disappointed or wronged last weekend, do not give up hope or capitulate to bitterness. There is always tomorrow. There is always next year, the promise of which is inexpressibly large. And even when our tomorrows run out, there is always forever. “Our heart is restless,” wrote St. Augustine, “until it rests in Thee.” Love, like everything here below, is a finite good—but it is the most excellent finite good there is, for it most nearly approaches the perfect and sufficient good, the love which is God Himself.

TOO HOT FOR WORDS



“Still More Tasteful than NBC.”

A Sarcastic Appreciation of The Monologues



by Mark Scirocco '10
Commentary Staff

CULTURE

In the hopes of putting *The Vagina Monologues* debate to rest, I'd like to dispense with certain myths circulating around Eve Ensler's timeless work. As the students who voiced their support for *The Vagina Monologues* in last week's issue of *The Cowl* make clear, there are several misconceptions regarding the play which prevent the students of Providence College from appreciating a book that should be on the bedside table of every man, woman, and child.

Myth #1: *The Vagina Monologues* is not intellectually stimulating. Listen to Ensler explain her motivation for mainstreaming the word “vagina”: “I say it [vagina] because we haven't come up with a word that's more inclusive, that really describes the entire area and all its parts. ‘Pussy’ is probably a better word, but it has so much baggage connected with it. And besides, I don't think most of us have a clear idea of what we're talking about when we say ‘pussy.’” Anyone doubting Ensler on this point need only watch an episode of MTV's *The Jersey Shore*, whose cast members tried to come up with a definition for the word “pussy” but, sadly, failed.

Myth #2: *The Vagina Monologues* reduces the dignity of women to a sexual organ. Ensler writes, “I say ‘vagina’ because when I started saying it I discovered how fragmented I was, how disconnected my body was from my mind. My vagina was something over there, away in the distance. I rarely lived inside it, or even visited. I was busy working, writing...I did not see my vagina as my primary resource, a place of sustenance, humor, and creativity...I had essentially lived most of my life without my motor, my center, my second heart.” As we see, the *Monologues* are about a woman's need to rediscover vaginas as the primary resource of sustenance and life. Again, Ensler writes, “Then you begin to say the word more and more. You say it with a kind of passion, a kind of urgency...So you say it everywhere you can, bring it up in every conversation.” The play is concerned with making the vagina the center of woman's existence in action and word, not about reducing them to a single body part. What are Ensler's critics missing?

Myth #3: *The Vagina Monologues* leads women to treat their bodies as mere playthings. This myth happens to be my

favorite because of its truth. Different from the worldview expressed by the Christian tradition, Ensler and her ilk hold that our bodies are playthings. Christianity contends that, far from seeking the mere satisfaction of desire, individuals ought to conform themselves to the truth of God, who, as our Creator, has jurisdiction over our actions. *The Vagina Monologues* frees us from such silly notions. Ensler explains: “It's scary saying the word. ‘Vagina.’ At first it feels like you're crashing through an invisible wall...Then...it occurs to you that it's your word, your body, your most essential place. You suddenly realize that all the shame and embarrassment you've previously felt saying the word has been a form of silencing your desire, eroding your ambition.” Shame is nothing more than a childish emotion to be removed by any decent sexual education. Only when we rid ourselves of shame are we free to treat our bodies with the disrespect that they deserve. Besides, when has the Church's guidance helped anyone, anyway?

Myth #4: *The Vagina Monologues* does nothing to stop sexual violence. “I say ‘vagina,’” writes Ensler, “because I have read the statistics, and bad things are happening to women's vaginas everywhere: 500,000 women are raped every year in the United States; 100 million women have been genitally mutilated worldwide...I say ‘vagina’ because I want these bad things to stop. I know they will not stop until we acknowledge that they're going on, and the only way to make that possible is to enable women to talk without fear of punishment or retribution.” Far from holding that crimes of sexual violence will only be effectively stopped by the proper use of force, Ensler wants to curb assault by bringing discussion about vaginas into the open. If only the Muslim women raped in Saddam Hussein's torture chambers or those in the dark alleys of our nation's most dangerous cities knew that all they had to do was whisper “vagina” to their attackers.

There are other myths in need of being dispensed with, including, “Ensler's play is concerned only with the advancement of a feminist agenda,” and “Ensler's play offers us nothing regarding sexual assault that could not be learned from the tenants of Christianity.” The sooner we dispense with these and other myths surrounding *The Vagina Monologues* and convince Fr. Shanley to give this masterpiece a place on campus the better off our college community will be.

GOT A VOICE?

JOIN THE COMMENTARY STAFF
AND LET IT BE HEARD!

Pick up an application in Slavin G05 today!

Absence Really Does Make the Heart Grow Fonder



by Viviana Garcia '12
Commentary Staff

CAMPUS

Upon visiting the sites of various online college newspapers, one theme stands out: The toll the college environment has taken on dating.

From observing the dating culture both here and elsewhere, and after a few dating experiences of my own, I can say that one of our greatest challenges is dealing with the unnatural college bubble in which we live. Recently, I've taken notice to the positive aspects of long-distance relationships because I think there are a few elements that we can incorporate in our own on-campus dating scene, especially the aspect of space.

It's easy to get carried away when you've found that one person who makes your heart skip a beat every time you see them, that consumes your

The phrase, "distance makes the heart grow fonder," is one that has stood the test of time. No matter what generation you resonate with, this is one of those little slivers of wisdom that you don't want to discard. Granted, it's tough to practice on a campus where even though you don't literally live together, that's what it feels like. You can't really escape each other, especially given the size of most liberal arts schools, but if it's something you want to test out, you definitely can find ways to make it work. The important thing to keep in mind is that, if you don't see each other one day, it's not the end of the world. On the contrary, it might just be exactly what you need. Trust after all is the foundation to every relationship. Therefore, if you feel like that might be one of the things lacking, it might not be the right time nor the right person to be investing your time in.

A relationship out of convenience and utility is never the answer, usually because it ends in much suffering when the other person doesn't live up

“THE PERSON WHO IS RIGHT FOR YOU WILL ALWAYS HAVE YOUR BEST INTERESTS AT HEART”

mind in the midst of your assigned Descartes reading, and makes you jump a little and blush at the sight of an incoming text or inbox message on Facebook. Those are all wonderfully natural feelings that everyone should experience when embarking on the possibility of a new relationship. College, however, creates an environment that facilitates feelings to run wild (and not in a healthy way).

You might have heard the term, "mini-marriage" when your friends describe the relationship of another mutual friend or perhaps your own. Primarily, this applies to those who spend every free moment with their special someone and compromise time with their friends, extra-curricular activities, and some might even argue, their very personality. Without having parents to hold you to certain standards, a curfew to abide by, and many other societal norms that you might find when you're back home, there is an endless realm of possibilities where everyday might be a misadventure in figuring out how to make this work. Some might ask, where is the harm in signing up for that extra class together, studying for six hours at the library, then heading over to the dining hall to meet your mutual friends for dinner, followed perhaps by a viewing of your favorite show?

It's not hard to get bogged down by the immediate: the boy/girl in your Civ class, the one who is somewhat stalking you, and the endless texts from a certain someone. What we should implement into our dating scene that long-distance relationships already incorporate is to take things slow in order for the both of you to keep perspective on what is important at the present time, while still maintaining your goals without compromising valuable time.

to your expectations. Wasted time is the worst feeling, which is why, if you know something isn't working out, drop it fast and move on. Don't engage in a relationship if from the get go you can't see a future, but your justifying it by telling yourself that at least you have someone to talk to your friends about, or someone to accompany you to class and go out on dates with.

The person who is right for you will always have your best interest at heart and will take into account that you're here to receive the best education possible and to graduate. Therefore, the both of you can support each other through this time. There is no reason to rush things — if it's right, it will be right now and in the next few years.

The person who is right for you will always have your best interest at heart and will take into account that you're here to receive the best education possible and graduate. Therefore, the both of you can support each other through this time. There is no reason to rush things, if it's right, it will be right now and in the next few years.

College is about playing it smart, both academically and in relationships. Space also allows for fewer regrets in the future. We have to keep in mind that college flies by, four years is not an eternity, it's eight semesters that disappear in the blink of an eye and a few years from now it won't matter who you asked out, the rejections you might have faced, and the relationships that didn't work out. What is going to matter are the people you decided to associate with, your closest friends, the classes you chose, the grades you got, and the activities you decided to partake in. If a long-lasting relationship emerged from amidst all of the above, that's icing on the cake.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Red Cup Working, Making Neighbors Happy

Dear Editor,

I live in the neighborhood and wanted to use *The Cowl* as a way of reaching a large number of PC students. As most of you know, the Red Cup Campaign has had a significant impact on the quality of life in our neighborhood. Many of you probably know someone who was cited or arrested. I really wish things didn't have to reach this point. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the many students who clearly have been making different choices about how to spend their weekends.

On my street, the number of parties has diminished, the noise level has—for the most part—been acceptable, and the numbers of roaming partygoers have been reduced! It feels like I moved to a different neighborhood!

Thank you, PC students for doing the right thing! Now, even your parents could consider living here! The quality of MY life has improved greatly: I sleep when I need to; I respect my neighbors more and feel respected; I don't feel frustrated at the lack of consideration any more.

I'm once again living the life of an adult who lives next to peers. I am no longer the neighbor who, in order to defend my peaceful existence, is put in the role of monitor or victim. Thank you, neighbors! You should be proud of yourselves. Keep up the thoughtful & mature choices and KNOW that we NOTICE & APPRECIATE your sacrifices! — A Much Happier Neighbor.

— Astrid Meijer

Let's Be Careful Choosing a Replacement

With the announcement of the new interim organizational structure of the Student Affairs Administration, it is imperative that Providence College seeks a qualified permanent replacement for the position of Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students. The departure of Chris Fortunato presents a significant blow to Student Affairs and finding someone of the same caliber will require much attention. Experience, training, and even additional educational degrees are not sufficient to enable someone to optimally fulfill the dynamic roles presented by this position. These backgrounds cannot substitute for the formal legal education obtained by Fortunato and the Dean of Students at other peer Catholic Institutions such as Fairfield University, Loyola University and Notre Dame. Selecting a replacement with no legal background will create vulnerability among the department and students alike.

Lack of legal knowledge presents a gap that training and experience cannot fulfill. The person selected for this position should have independence and not have to pick up the phone

to ask the College's attorneys how to make a decision, partly because we live in a society where it is all too common for disputes to be settled by the legal system. Selecting a replacement without the legal know-how will foster the insecurity already rampant among other departments. As with the Office of Student Conduct (whose previous Dean was an attorney), the recent lack of properly qualified personnel has come primarily to the detriment of the students who must pass through its doors. If administrators who assume quasi-judicial roles without any modicum of legal knowledge deal with legal situations, it is the student who will undoubtedly suffer.

Though Providence College is a private entity with much more autonomy than a public institution, it is still bound by the contractual obligations of the College's message and the ideals advertised to prospective students. I hope that administrators can make the right decision in picking a replacement that will be in the best interests of all students.

—Jon Dooley '11



February 22 – Fennell and McVinney

March 8 – All other residence halls

More Information:

http://selfhelp.providence.edu/IT/Networking/Network_Registration

Questions?

Contact the Helpdesk

401-865-HELP

helpdesk@providence.edu

www.thecowl.com

Giving Students the Right to Duct Tape

by Nicholas Carrigg '10
Guest Commentary

About a week ago, my friends and I started a competition to see which one of us could get into the best shape by May. Now we are all focusing on exercising consistently and eating healthily. In terms of the former, I am usually avid, but when it comes to the latter, I admit that desserts are my weakness. Nothing caps off a Ray meal like some coffee and chocolate chip cookies – so long as they're the soft kind, of course. Yet, despite the *ghrelin* surging through my system – a hormone that makes some foods seem more appealing than others – I breeze past the dessert display and opt for an orange instead. How can I resist this urge to binge on a delectable baked good? I believe that the term is Free Will.

It was during a dinner like the one described above that I stumbled upon the commentary entitled "A More Sensitive Approach to Teen Moms" written by Katrina Davino '10. In her piece, Davino critiques an article entitled "Dropping the Bomb on Teen

Moms" by Viviana Garcia '12. After re-reading both pieces, I can understand how Garcia's passionate style can be taken in the wrong way. However, it appears that Davino became so caught up in Garcia's diction that she missed the point of Garcia's article: because teen mothers and their children lack the support that marriage offers,

“HOW CAN I RESIST THIS URGE TO BINGE ON A DELECTABLE BAKED GOOD? THE TERM IS FREE WILL”

they deserve our sympathy, not a cold shoulder. Furthermore, because teen mothers and their babies are at such a disadvantage, any society that promotes teens *getting themselves into* such a situation is going in the wrong direction.

Davino also critiques Garcia's stance on contraception. She states that “guys and girls are going to have sex,” – not, as [Garcia] claims, because they might have access to contraception, but because they are hormone-driven teenagers.” Because teenagers are apparently compelled to act upon their sex drives, Davino implies that teaching them sexual discipline is a fruitless

enterprise. Davino's suggestion? Remove the immediate consequences *per act* with contraceptives.

Now, let us apply Miss Davino's theory to my appetite for confectioneries. According to her system, rather than avoiding the dessert section, I should seal my mouth with a piece of duct tape after finishing my main course each

contraceptives, but correlation does prove causation. The statistics do not tell us if or how these girls are being taught sexual morality at home, and the data certainly do not prove that teens have no control over their sex drives. If parents do not explain to their children that sex is meant for the procreation of life, and that all new life deserves the support of marriage, then we cannot expect teenagers to practice abstinence.

The key to stopping teen pregnancy is not to discredit teenagers' free will – thereby insulting their personhood – but to give them the tools to exercise it moderately. Slapping duct tape on my mouth after dinner will not discipline my appetite. It forces me to be its slave. However, should I learn to abstain from dessert except when it is appropriate – I'm sticking with the weekends – then I am in control and certainly more appreciative. So too for teen sex drives. If teenagers are not just taught to abstain until marriage, but are also given the encouragement and means to avoid temptation, then we are attacking the problem of teen pregnancy at its source. This is true chastity and true freedom.

night. This way, when I walk past that luscious piece of chocolate cake, I can have at it to my heart's content. If this is indeed the only way for us to control our passions, then I believe that the students of Providence College have a right to duct tape. It should be provided at the entrance to Ray.

“Next, please! Oh, don't forget your tape, Honey.”

This is obviously ridiculous, but it is also the logical conclusion to Davino's argument about the nature of human appetites. To be fair, she does provide statistics from Texas about a correlation between high teen pregnancy rates and required parental consent for obtaining



by Fr. James Cuddy, O.P.
Contributing Writer

Simple Ways to Keep a Holy Lent

There's a decent chance that I broke my right thumb today. At the very least it's severely sprained. I've been distributing ashes all day, tracing the Cross on the foreheads of students, faculty, and staff at Ash Wednesday services in the chapel. And now at the end of the day, my thumb is twitching involuntarily as I sit at my desk.

While pondering whether Dominicans qualify for workers' compensation, I couldn't help but be moved by just how many members of our college community came out to observe the beginning of the season of Lent. I reflected on the enthusiasm of the students I saw pouring out of their labs in Albertus Magnus and sprinting to the chapel to get their ashes.

As I was meditating and praying about these things, I committed my annual Ash Wednesday blunder. Absentmindedly, I wiped my hand across my forehead and smeared ashes all over my face. I trudged off to the bathroom in an attempt to get the black streaks off of my nose and realized that this unfortunate incident was fitting symbol of a typical Lenten problem.

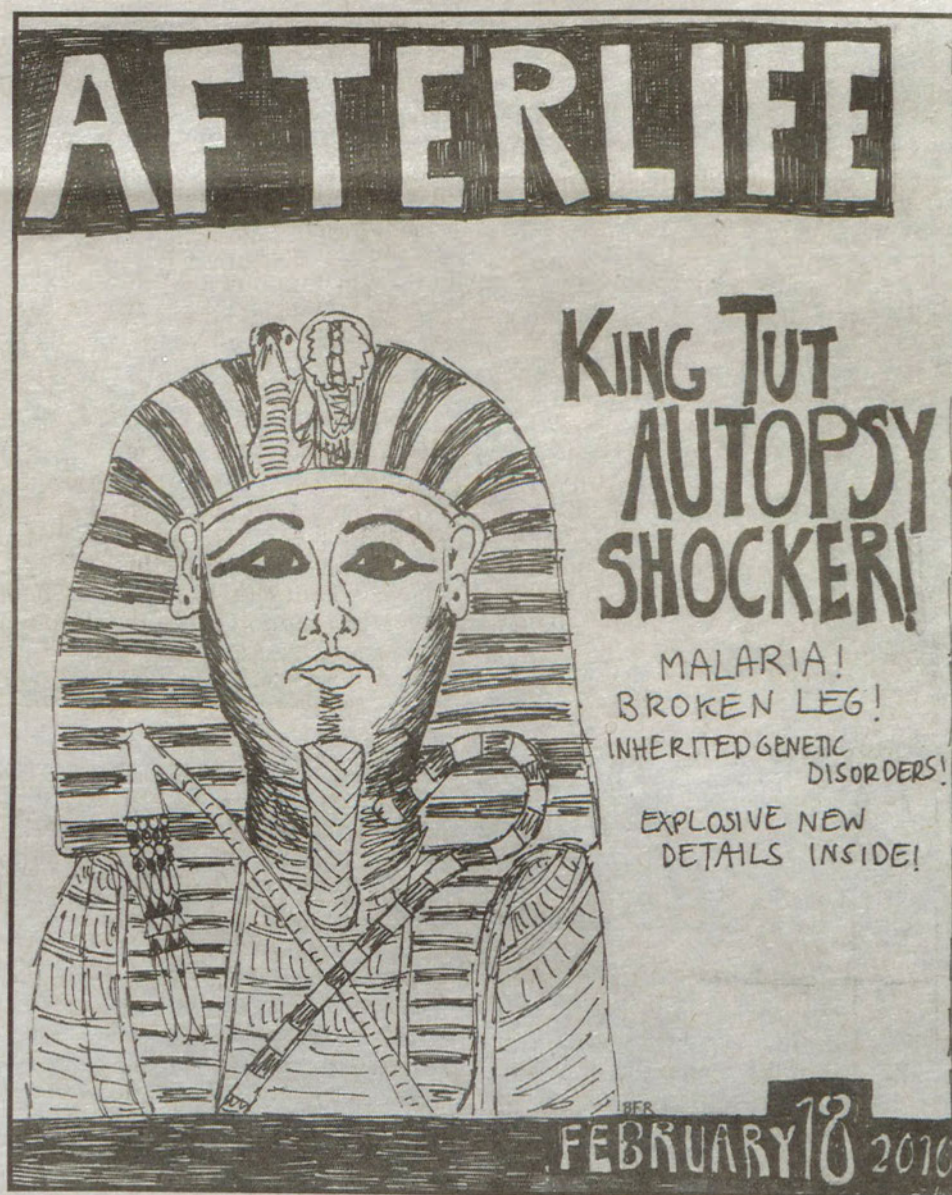
Many of us go through Ash Wednesday with great eagerness and determination. We are resolved to avoid sweets and abstain from

using foul language. We are intent on spending more time in prayer and striving to be more charitable to one another. As Lent begins, we leave the chapel with fresh ashes on our brows and a firm commitment to make the most of these forty days.

And then a strange thing happens on our way to Easter Sunday. We can lose some of the zeal. We get caught up in the ordinary business of life. We forget our ashes and next thing you know, it's Holy Week and we haven't really taken advantage of the many graces of Lent.

So how do we avoid these pitfalls? How do we make our ashes last throughout these forty days? A good place to start is to recall throughout each day the words that we heard as the ashes were placed on our foreheads: “Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel.” This formula – as challenging as it is brief – contains everything we need to have a holy Lent. Say it in the morning as you brush your teeth. Repeat it on your way to class. Ask God to give you the grace to put it into practice in your life. If we can keep this phrase on our lips and in our hearts, we'll bring the enthusiasm that we share today all the way to Holy Week and beyond.

After Life by Bridget Reed '12



COMMUNITYLIFE presents

**OPEN MIC &
COFFEEHOUSE**

FRIDAY, FEB. 19

7pm - 11pm

CAMPUS MINISTRY CENTER





Wolfman

Go Ahead, Take a Bite

by John Mango '11
A&E Staff

The wolfman howls with delirium. Nearly every scene that isn't a close-up of Benicio Del Toro's squinting face is a decapitation, a limb torn off, gobs of gushing blood, and sometimes someone screaming when his jaw is still intact. That is what this movie left me with; it was a crash course in anatomy and physiology in the rawest of senses.

But let me provide some history. Lycanthrope is an ancient myth, the release of the animal id burrowed in all of us translated into a raging half man half beast mutt with a lust for innocent blood. However, the best known adaptation to American myth may be the original Wolfman's distinctive afro and voracious underbite. The 1941 Lon Cheney incarnation was king of the B-movie scene, delivering both camp and shivers: a silly yet frightening beast.

The 2010 *Wolfman*? It rips the plot into little shards inserted between massacres of gypsies and bureaucrats. I will piece together what little there is to give you a shaky structure of what went on. Benicio is an expatriate, an American actor with a troubled past. His life had a shadow cast over it by the suicide of his mother while he was still at a tender age. Years later the successful Del Toro returns to his musky hometown in Great Britain after hearing of his brother's death. He finds himself in his childhood home, witnessing it in all its creaky creepiness, sinister spiderwebs, and a sikh butler armed to the teeth with silver shotgun shells. Oh, and his menacing father (Anthony Hopkins) is there too. There have been many vicious, gore-ridden murders (from which we are not spared) since the arrival of a band of gypsies. Del Toro confronts the head gypsy mystic; however, his appointment is abruptly halted by a catastrophe outside the covered wagon. Soon Scotland Yard hears of the many murders and sends the ever so bad ass Hugo Weaving (a strong willed detective) to delve into the mystery of this little town.

I suppose I can tell you this as it happens pretty early and isn't surprising at all. During the gypsy ruckus, Del Toro has his neck gnarled

to red ribbons and then suddenly... HE BECOMES THE BEAST ITSELF. Wow, right? Who'da thunk it. Anyway, despite a plot twist in the end the movie essentially ends here and gives way to one long blood bath. Now, gruesome violence can, in some perverted manner, be entertaining in itself, when taken with a grain or rather a big sack of salt. But here after the fourth decapitation, you begin to feel as desensitized as the young generation which has been suckling the violence videos of YouTube for the past ten years. There is nothing fresh or creative or even enjoyably cheesy about the flesh fillets.

However, despite the boring plot and redundant eviscerations, the hyperbolic setting is a bit charming. The spiderwebs in the mansion? They are everywhere. I mean Hopkins really let this place go. The day is always dark, the night starless (although this really isn't new for the Great Brit). The dark pathetic fallacies even seem to bleed their way into Del Toro's squinting shadowed eyes. The werewolves themselves hearken back to the original man-bear-pig-esque look of the first Wolfman. So the movie has that going for it, but in the end, after you've wiped the blood off, there's not much here. Maybe a couple of stereotypes, a growl or two, some sexual tension, but that's really all you're paying for. Too redundant to be fun, too mindless to be engaging, and yet sort of visually appealing, this mix of human mutton and wolfy wreckage is something to run from.

Grade: C-



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.CELLBRUTYWONDER.COM

We Are the World: Auto-Tuned

Questionable Celebs Unite for an Admirable Cause

by Nahuel Fanjul-Arguijo '11
A&E Editor

Is it true that we are the world? I would beg to differ that the new "We Are the World 25 for Haiti" shows our world or what our world needs right now. Don't get me wrong, this was for a great cause and it needed to happen, but it was a little distasteful for my liking. I will back up anything that is endorsed by Jamie Foxx, for he is an amazing artist and actor, but he can't vouch for his buddies on this remake.

The original "We Are the World" made great strides for AIDS awareness in Africa, and I would even say that it was probably the greatest achievement Quincy Jones, Michael Jackson, and Lionel Richie had in their careers. Great artists like Stevie Wonder, Tina Turner, Billy Joel, Cyndi Lauper, Ray Charles, and many other became one to fight, in song, for a huge problem in the world.

The remake, also produced by Jones and Richie, seemed to take on

a modern perspective that was not necessary. None of the stars from the 1985 version of the song were included in this remake, and were replaced by a ragtag bunch of hip-hop artists and a few others. Solos were given to the likes of Kanye West, Lil Wayne, Will.I.Am, Miley Cyrus, Usher, LL Cool J, T-Pain, and Snoop Dogg. (I just don't understand how a respectable song, with the cultural relevance of the '85, classic can be redone with people like Iyaz and Bizzy Bone.)

These people are making a song to inspire people, to show the world its problems and they really thought auto-tune should have been used?

Some legit artists gave the song a positive feel like Carlos Santana, Josh Groban, Mary J. Blige, Barbara Streisand, Enrique Iglesias, Adam Levine, and Celine Dion. These people give the song some affirmation. Even a couple of the Beach Boys came by, and let's just say Brian Wilson probably

felt a little out of place surrounded by Akon, Busta Rhymes, and Swizz Beatz.

I don't understand what Quincy was thinking when this came about. The original was meant to move people, to show the world that there are problems to fix, and that we can come together and overpower anything. We are the world, we can fix anything; I'm sorry, but T-Pain doesn't make me feel that way. When the new version includes a rap break down, it makes me embarrassed for the music industry. Did Will.I.Am really think that rapping about magic carpets would make people care more? Another classic has been thoroughly butchered.

We need the Bob Dylans, the Bruce



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.CATHER.COM

Springsteens, the Willie Nelsons, and the Kenny Rogers of today to come out. We need real artists, with the power to show emotions and distress in the world, artists with the need for change to come out and show the world what needs to happen. Vince Vaughn doesn't make me feel for Haiti...I just don't understand.

Give It Up Already, Simpsons

A Big Boo-urns to a Former Television Great

by Catherine Northington '12
A&E Editor

"Television! Teacher, mother, secret lover!"

Such were the reverent words once uttered by Homer Simpson towards his most dependable of companions: the television.

And while Homer's TV-centric tendencies may (somewhat) exceed our own couch potato-ing, boob-tubing lifestyles, his words of praise ring true for countless individuals who spend hours every day in front of that little magic box.

Shows like *The Simpsons* tout unquestionable influence on the lives of viewers around the world—not only the most avid of watchers, but also those countless individuals who have been tackled by the show's mercilessly ubiquitous marketing and cultural omnipresence for the past two decades.

Speaking for myself: *The Simpsons* permeated absolutely every aspect of my childhood.

That is why I am standing up on my Cowl soapbox right now to deliver a sermon (eulogy, perhaps?) for *The Simpsons*. Here I will lament that this once-exquisite institution has turned into, well, everything that I hate.

Growing up, *The Simpsons* was like a family member that came around for 22 minutes every Sunday evening and brought us joy, laughter, and yellow, four-fingered fun.

That family member has grown very old, very obnoxious, and is very much overstaying its welcome. In fact, at this point, *The Simpsons* would be better off dying.

The franchise has become so tragically tainted that I must bask in the glow of the show's glory days of yore in order to reflect on its impact on my life. Some of my best memories have their roots in *Simpsons* trivia...

Like when the Northington clan used to play 20 Questions on those interminable car rides, and I would always lose after one question... because the only subject I ever chose was Hans Moleman.

Or the time I was petrified of taking

photographs at Disney World for fear I would spurn a violent robotic uprising among the Animatronic figures, à la the episode where the Simpsons visited Itchy and Scratchy Land.

Or the hours of my life spent reading *Simpsons* episode guides. Or the arduous days I spent trying to beat that awesome *Simpsons* computer game (which, I am proud to say, I still play on my laptop here at PC). Or the thousands of dollars in quarters I spent playing *Simpsons* pinball at the arcade.

The show is still topical, and it is still relevant; that much is not to be denied. But the way that *The Simpsons* goes about asserting its cultural relevance nowadays is embarrassingly obvious. It's as if the writers themselves are no longer convinced of their aptitude, and feel the need to bash their audience's skulls with mind-numbingly cheap humor and stale, mechanical, and recycled material. Subtlety has been thrown out the window, replaced by cheap cracks and base humor appealing to the viewing audience's least intellectual of sensibilities.

The *Simpsons*' writers used to believe in its viewers—they employed subtlety and a brand of humor that made you think. Until the late '90s *The Simpsons*' writers diligently refused to dumb down the program for the "benefit" of the general populace.

Those days, my friends, are gone.

The charm of old-school *Simpsons* was that the show didn't need to be over-the-top: Its genius lay in its simplicity along with the discerning shrewdness of its writing staff. Nowadays, every other episode boasts some cheesy marketing scheme. Famous celebrities will voice themselves on the show, or the Simpson family will be doing something simply absurd, such as competing in the Winter Olympics. Wow.

Week after week, the writers, hungry to return *The Simpsons* to its former stature at the pinnacle of pop culture, shove disgustingly contrived plotlines down the viewing public's throats.

Commercialism isn't to blame for *The Simpsons*' downward decline; the show has been almost sickeningly

commercialized since its beginnings back in December 1989—its rampant advertising campaigns predate the existence of the sitcom itself (the show began as a sketch on *The Tracey Ullman Show* in 1988).

But there was a time when *The Simpsons* had the right to be plastered on everything from underwear to toothpaste to video games, to just about anything else you can think of—a time when *The Simpsons* damn well deserved the world's undivided attention.

The final contributor to my vendetta against *The Simpsons* franchise was their blasphemous act of moving to the big screen, thereby becoming the sellout of all sellouts. The show reached well beyond its means in 2007 with the release of *The Simpsons Movie*, which stands firmly at the top of my list of "Movies To Never, Ever, Ever See...Ever."

The extent of my knowledge about this movie is the word "Spiderpig," a concept so atrociously unfunny that it makes me shiver with rage to even type out. Fortunately, it serves to prove my point about *The Simpsons* being dumbed down—to a nauseating extent.

The best *Simpsons* seasons, without a doubt, were Three through Eight: the Golden Years. During Seasons One and Two *The Simpsons* was still struggling to find its groove—but every single episode from Seasons Three through Eight is a gem (I defy any and all readers to refute this claim).

There have been a few (very few) diamonds in the rough since Season Eight, but I stand by my assertion that the only episodes worth repeat views fall within this time frame. They are forever quotable, forever relevant, and forever irreplaceable in our hearts and minds.

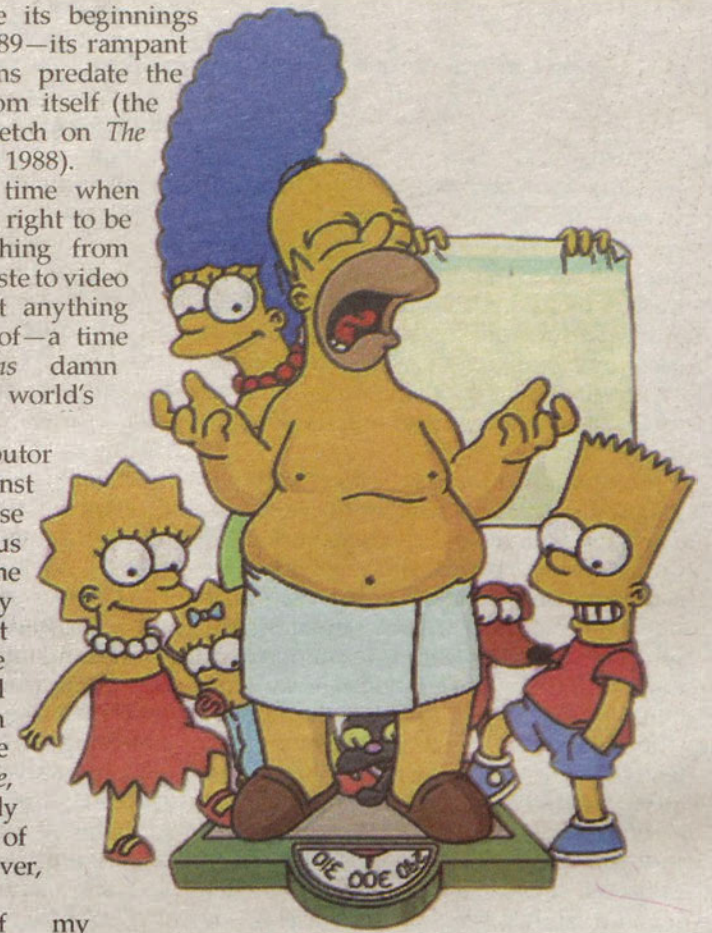


PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.ECONSULTANCY.COM

It's a tragedy that one of the finest institutions in American television has decayed into the oblivion of sitcom nightmare. The show's initial success was propelled by its novel approach to situation comedy through the use of cartoon. Think about it: Without *The Simpsons*, there would be no *Family Guy*, no *King of the Hill*, no *Futurama*—the list goes on.

I beg Matt Groening and all *Simpsons* writers to stop clinging to the remnants of an empire that was always bound to fall. To continue this charade is an insult to the institution that once so proudly pioneered the sitcom industry.

I wish that you had quit while you were ahead, because you've lost one individual's viewership, along with her respect.

Please, bring back those good ol' Butterfinger BB days.

EDITOR vs. EDITOR

This Week: Favorite Guilty Pleasure Movie

Catherine Northington

Favorite Guilty Pleasure Movie: *High School Musical*

Her Thoughts: I don't really feel guilty about this choice, per se, because *High School Musical* is legitimately entertaining. To laugh at, and to laugh with. But mostly just to laugh at. Not only that, but the music is absurdly catchy. Even embarrassingly so. Those songs still run in a continuous loop through my head—and yes, I know all the words. *High School Musical* is cheesy, but a little cheese never hurt nobody. Anyway, I think having a prepubescent sibling gives me a sufficient excuse to immerse myself in that inescapable *High School Musical* culture. Don't judge.

Her Views of Nahuel: *Mean Girls* is a fantastic flick, but...well, I'm still a little embarrassed for you, Nahuel. Your questionable tastes in fashion and cinema, my darling co-editor, are...let's just say they are arousing certain suspicions among your fellow Cowlers. But so long as we agree on this movie's awesomeness, we should totally have a slumber party and make ice cream sundaes and do each other's hair and watch it tonight!



Nahuel Fanjul-Arguijo

Favorite Guilty Pleasure Movie: *Mean Girls*

His Thoughts: I always say this about *Mean Girls*: This is not a chick flick. Yeah the title gives it a girly feel, but what could guys love more than good looking girls scratching and clawing at other good looking girls? This movie has something for everyone. Also, we see Lindsay Lohan at her best, and I'm not just talking about looks. We've all seen her worst, while dating some boyish looking girl, and *Mean Girls* just convinces me that she was once actually famous... and she can actually be funny. Sure, *Freaky Friday* ruined her career (and maybe started her love for half-boy-half-girl, co-starring with Jamie Lee Curtis), but let's just forget about that movie. *Mean Girls* will always be a classic, and we can thank them for repeatable lines like "she doesn't even go here," and "boo, you whore!"

His Views of Catherine: I will keep my retort nice and short. You are in college, you are not a 12-year-old girl, and you are an embarrassment. This movie is the downfall of society, and you should be ashamed of yourself.

Valentine's Day

Not Actually Love Actually

by Chris Stadolnik '10
A&E Staff

Love Actually is probably one of the best films of the past 10 years; so good in fact, that a single, spiteful sot of a boy (like myself) can get his coal-fired heart warmed to its cockles by curling up in front of the telly for a good watch. And Hollywood, realizing this, could only be expected to try to apply the formula to a cast of American stars—these are economic and creatively lean times after all.

They tried it with *He's Just Not That Into You* and failed miserably. It was far too melodramatic, the acting was stiff, there was no cross-gender appeal, and it featured an unhealthy dose of Drew Barrymore (who is not desirable in the least, so stop telling me so, Movie Land!). Execs who saw that their first attempt could not even win a Teen Choice Award were flabbergasted. Let's face it: Kids these days will watch just about anything.

What was it that *He's Just Not That Into You* lacked: Plot, acting, a sense of originality? No, it had to be that it didn't revolve around a hyper-commercialized holiday and didn't include any teen sensations—the secret to success for all

favorite movies—*Reservoir Dogs* and *The Warriors* being standout examples. But it's just hackneyed and awful in *Valentine's Day*. There is no elaboration, no explication, or even a witty turn of phrase. It's all just hot waxy cheese to bathe this stale pile of crap of a film.

The several stories are almost all directly lifted from other movies and slightly reworked to fit the format of this particular film. And barring the ethical implications of making a movie that way, with so much outright thievery, they didn't even steal anything that was worth watching the first time around. Anne Hathaway and Topher Grace's story is lifted from the 1993 film *Short Cuts*, a C+ movie at best. The other stories scream plagiarism and minor amounts of amateur retooling. Even the names are poorly chosen. The particular gem, Bradley Cooper, a *He's Just Not That Into You* alumnus, plays a character named Holden (can you hear Salinger spinning?) to terrible effect.

The only positive thing that can be said for this film is that it finally



great American filmmakers.

So, after realizing this, a new team of writers was quickly rounded up, chained to desks, and had the miserable hobbit child of a film, *Valentine's Day*, beaten out of them at lightning speed.

The opening credits alone are nearly 15 minutes of reel. The movie stars Jessica Alba, Jessica Biel, Bradley Cooper, Ashton Kutcher, Julia Roberts, Jamie Foxx, Anne Hathaway, Shirley MacLaine, Hector Elizondo, Jennifer Garner, Patrick Dempsey, Eric Dane, Emma Roberts, Taylor Swift, Taylor Lautner, Queen Latifah, Topher Grace, Carter Jenkins, George Lopez, and Kathy Bates (oh, and some others, too). One would think that if you hired all of those actors one of them might deliver a decent performance. Nope. Sorry, the best performance by far belongs to Taylor Swift, who plays "that girl." She owns Uggs in at least three different colors to match her purses. She peppers nearly every conversation with innumerable "likes" and "ums." You know, *that girl*.

The overall structure of the movie is just bad. The filmmakers employed a radio DJ to narrate at odd intervals to fake continuity among the multiple fractious story lines. The technique is not in itself bad, and has been employed to great effect in some of my

commits to public record the incontrovertible truth that Jennifer Garner is "just sunshine." This is simply truth in advertising.

Valentine's Day is one of those special rosebuds that remind you that everything said by men about romantic-comedies is nearly synoptic truth. This movie wouldn't be worth the pint of Ben & Jerry's and two hours of time you would have to sacrifice to watch it on Lifetime. Oh, did I mention after two hours of sitting and feeling your arse, brain, and heart go numb, you enjoy the pleasure of watching Queen Latifah simulating phone sex as an African Queen/Dominatrix? Well that was worth the price of admission right there.

Grade D+

A disclaimer: I reviewed this film full of testosterone, empty of alcohol, single, and accompanied by Catherine Northington '12—and she hated *Love Actually*. Your level of satisfaction may differ. But man, I sorta wish I just saw the *Vagina Monologues* instead.

Picks of the Week

by Alison DeNisco '11
A&E Staff

Movie

Whip It

Directed by Drew Barrymore

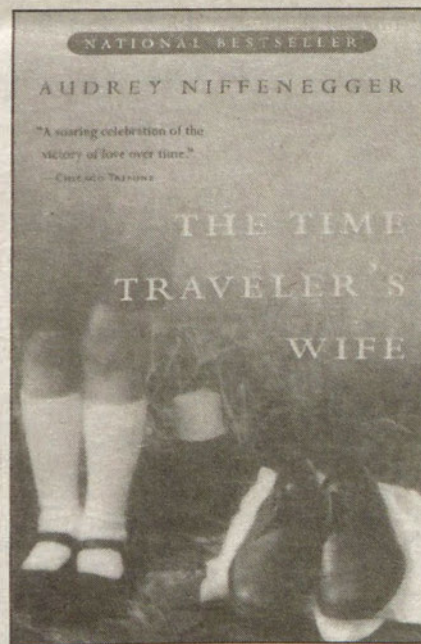
Barrymore's directorial debut *Whip It* tells the story of 17-year-old Bliss (Ellen Page), a small-town, alternative ("Alternative to what?" she asks) Texas girl (though oddly, no one here seems to have a southern accent...go figure) who leaves her overbearing mother (Marcia Gay Harden) and life of pageants behind when she discovers the cut-throat world of female roller derby. Page gives yet another memorable performance with just the right amounts of sarcasm and heart. This movie will make you want to pull out those old Barbie roller skates and give yourself a tough-tattooed-chick name along the lines of Babe Ruthless or Smashley Simpson.



Book

The Time Traveler's Wife By Audrey Niffenegger

The movie just came out on DVD, but trust me, you want to read the book first. Niffenegger's fantastic 2003 debut novel about a man with a genetic disorder that causes him to uncontrollably travel through time, and about the woman who loves him and must cope with his absences, is original and gripping. The themes of love, loss, and time manifest the problems of ordinary relationships thrown into an extraordinary and difficult situation. Although Henry and Claire's love is unique and enduring, the movie somehow fails to fully capture those qualities.



Album

Begin to Hope Regina Spektor

This Soviet-born American's punchy, quirky voice and amazing piano solos have never sounded better than on 2006's *Begin to Hope*. With lyrics about eating a slice of Wonderbread, DJs falling asleep, and, on the bonus edition of the album, burping "Uhmérica," Spektor is one of the most original artists to make it into the mainstream, which she did through her hit single "Fidelity" and songs on the soundtrack to last year's *(500) Days of Summer*. *Begin to Hope* is her fourth of five albums since 2001, and her urban quirkiness is sure to appear on many future releases.



The New Auteurs

The Demise of the Superstar

by Jorge Lucas '12
A&E Staff

We are witnessing the dusk of an old aristocracy. Its nobles have seen their glory days waning, from demigod status to ignored rom-com dregs. Steeped in aged, tabloid-fueling scandals and outnumbered by adopted African children, these icons of the silver screen have been rendered mere honorary figures with as much clout as the English Queen. Gone are the days when their names attracted droves of film-goers into theaters, regardless of plot or performance.

We've all had our star of choice. Perhaps at one time you would have paid to see a second-tier Stephen King adaptation as long as Johnny Depp occupied the screen for the majority of the running time. Others may have endured remakes of a '70s television show because they were promised the combined beauty of Cameron Diaz, Lucy Liu, and Drew Barrymore. Maybe Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie together on screen were enough reason to shell out 10 bucks on a Friday night.

If mention of these film industry fixtures once elicited our love-struck gasps and unending praise, to what role have they now been relegated and toward what has our attention been redirected? Though actors will never be made unnecessary (despite James Cameron's crazed obsession with photo-realistic CGI), the lights have certainly dimmed on the actors' stage. It seems the lights have been reignited, however,

behind the curtain: home of the director and all his inspired machinations.

There still remains a single spotlight reserved for those outstanding performances worthy of recognition. Instead of dying out like brown dwarves, some stars have risen above that dangerously complacent position of playing the same role over and over again (I'm looking at you, Nicholas Cage) by channeling all their energies into one role, the way Marlon Brando would have back when the method actor reigned supreme.

Daniel Day-Lewis certainly set the bar incredibly high with his turn as Daniel Plainview in *There Will Be Blood*. Few thought it could ever be rivaled until Mickey Rourke brought us to tears in the emotional *The Wrestler*. Leonardo DiCaprio is a perfect example of a star whose pretty-boy status, established in *Titanic*, easily could have destroyed any chance of becoming a serious actor. Instead, he transformed himself and graduated to more profound material, such as *The Aviator* and *Revolutionary Road*.

Though the aforementioned examples are all phenomenal actors in their own right, they also share the common benefit of having an experienced guide. Let us imagine strings on our actors leading behind the curtains in our earlier stage metaphor. I'd hate to reduce these amazing artists to marionettes, but the image works. Directors Paul Thomas Anderson, Darren Aronofsky, Martin



ILLUSTRATION BY ANDREW CUPELO

Scorsese, and Sam Mendes received well-deserved praise for creating beautiful films that facilitated their actors' Oscar-worthy performances. Since then, we've seen a drastic increase in media attention and prestige accorded to directors for their work.

Take *Avatar*, for example. Surely no one walked away amazed with Sam Worthington and Sigourney Weaver's stale performances. On the contrary, you must be as sick and tired of hearing about director James Cameron as I am. The fact is that nearly all credit really should be dispensed to the man behind the camera.

And we cannot forget the likes of Quentin Tarantino, Guy Ritchie, Kathryn Bigelow, Jason Reitman, and the Coen Brothers, whose reputations are derived not from petty relationship scandals or paparazzi run-ins like those self-possessed, former rulers of cinema who so brashly call themselves actors. Rather, they are defined by their personal, unmistakable, oftentimes idiosyncratic, filmmaking styles. I am even tempted to

revive a little word rarely heard around Hollywood these days, a word that recalls enigmatic Frenchmen in moody cafés and bizarre, experimental films—these directors seem to me a new breed of American *auteur*.

Overly complacent actors drunk on fame may have claimed the throne of artistic influence from the New Hollywood directors of the 70s and 80s, namely Steven Spielberg, Francis Ford Coppola and George Lucas. But the new auteurs are now staging a coup d'état to reclaim cinema for the artists and restore what their forefathers once envisioned. Maybe someday these men and women will disappoint us, too, demanding only blue M&Ms in their trailers, joining Scientology, and casting Sandra Bullock and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson in comedic action romps. Until then we must relish in their refreshingly creative output and pray that an even braver generation follows on their heels. And hopefully one of them can do Nicholas Cage a favor and revive his career.

cac•tüz

★★★★ burritorevolution
burritos • tacos • smoothies & more

Quesadilla - Tacos
Burrito Plate - Burrito Salad
California Burrito King

Free Delivery to PC!
401-421-2222

Deliveries after 4:00pm

Hours:
Sun-Thu 10-10
Fri-Sat 10-11

1005 Smith Street
Providence RI. 02909



The California Burrito
King has arrived!

retro corner

This Week: The Bowl Cut

by Matthew Frederick '10
A&E Staff

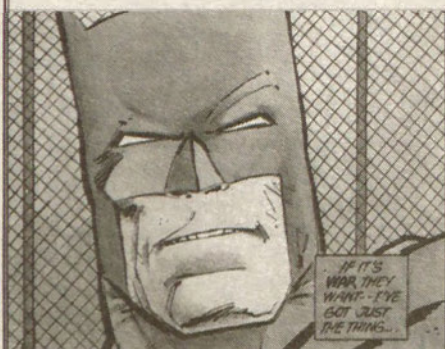
Bowl cut, mushroom cut, whatever you want to call it—back in the '90s you were Mr. Cool when you sported this trendy hairstyle. I can still remember all the middle school girls drooling over their jock crushes as their mop hair flung back in the wind with an air of confidence demonstrated perfectly by Keanu "running in slow-motion is the highlight of my acting reel" Reeves' entrance in *The Replacements*. The cut carried an undeniable punk reputation that acted as the mask of assurance for every insecure little boy.

For us, going retro typically is associated with a nostalgic feeling, but I'm having a hard time looking back and thinking, "man, those were the good days." We clearly missed plenty of hints that the fad sucked even while it was still in its prime. Putting the actual haircut aside for a moment, can we acknowledge that the models of the generation for the hairstyle would be none other than Moe Howard of *The Three Stooges* and Lloyd Christmas of *Dumb and Dumber*? How about the fact that it is named the bowl cut because you literally take a bowl, place it on your head, and then pretty much just shave off whatever is below what will now be known as the Christmas-Howard Line. How did those not set off some warning flashers?

So, here I give you a photo of the classic bowl cut. It's a tough choice of a picture because the pale skin, double chin, and squinted smile features are all fighting with the hair for your immediate burst-out-laughing attention. Nonetheless, "a picture is worth a thousand words," and there's no doubt this bad boy alone would have won me a debate against even Frank the Tank over the likeability of the bowl cut. Now, don't make me out to be some sort of coward-calling, retro fads hater, because sadly the ghost of my past is the boy staring you in the face right now on what I used to happily remember as the first time I visited the Statue of Liberty. Feel free to point and laugh at my expense as I walk through campus.



Nerds Like Us



with John Mango

So this one is pretty freakin' obvious to comic aficionados and casual readers alike, but it's a monumental work, like Lincoln Memorial monumental, or Epcot, or Bannigan's. *The Dark Knight Returns* written and drawn by Frank Miller (the godfather of both *Sin City* and *300* in comic form), rips apart the previous notions of the clunky and rather embarrassing Batman of the '70s. You see, Batman has a long strange history, which I am about to recite in a highly reductive form. Batman began in the '30s as a costume garbed detective, and as time rolled on, as the trenches of WWI broke into the wasteland of the Great Depression followed by some kids hiding under desks, a couple people into flowers, and finally the oh so righteous key-party, Batman went through equally staggering transitions. Unlike his blood brother Superman, there was nothing pure about Batman. His justice was swift, unquestioning, brutal. Batman was the knight in the dark. And this is what Frank Miller brought back to the comic.

In *Dark Knight*, Batman has long retired, being a big, old, angry geezer, but his disgust with the city's gang violence, and his lust for a taste of battle motivates him to don his old cape. The ride that follows is a dangerous one that is full of frustration with Batman's deteriorated physique, a new Robin, and a bit of the old ultraviolence. We see the release of Batman's better half, the Joker. And listen, this is not Jack Nicholson's clown, this is Heath Ledger, no holds barred. He is vicious, sneaky, and chock-full of maniacal laughter. The plot is dotted with shining moments and moves along swiftly, although all of Miller's work does; he wants to get to the pulp of the project and rub your face in it.

Among mainstream comics, *Dark Knight's* art is explosive. The lines vibrate with violence smooth at some points but shaken and jagged at others. Batman is fleshed out as a beast of a man: Huge, scarred, built like Vin Diesel, as lithe as Bruce Lee.

Before the introduction of Manga (Japanese comics) into the American mainstream, US comics tended to have huge leaps between the frames. Or, to put it less like a dork, the pictures were so different from each other, they nearly lost their sequential nature. *The Dark Knight* takes that trend and puts a big black Batman boot up its ass. In many sequences the images differ in only subtle ways. The way a character is looking, a quick faint, someone's face all mashed, then more mashed from Bruce Wayne's fists. The whole book has a cinematic feel to it. It's dark, unafraid of delving into the violence Batman finds necessary to dig out evil.

If you've been looking for something to read in regards to superheroes—hell, if you've been looking for anything to read—this is a good place to start. Challenging, dim, yet full of life, Batman stalks the pages with dark glory.

I LOVE THE OLYMPICS

Learned Prediction for the Final Week of Competition

by John Vaghi '10
Editor-in-Chief

I've become completely obsessed with the Winter Olympics ever since Wayne Gretzky and fellow Canadian torchbearers awkwardly waited around for a malfunctioning torch to light during the elaborate opening ceremonies on Feb. 12. Of course, The Games have given us a lot more than a few tense moments and horrified looks from some of Canada's finest. The Games started tragically with the death of Georgian luger Nodar Kumaritashvili, an incident that was handled somewhat shoddily by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and has cast a shadow over some of the Olympics' more inspiring moments so far.

Nevertheless, the 2010 Vancouver Games have rekindled my desire to become a world-renowned biathlete and turned whatever Olympian is on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* my all time favorite athlete (and with American skier Lindsey Vonn gracing the front of last week's issue, my current celebrity infatuation).

So, with the spirit of ancient Olympic Games in mind, here are my learned predictions for the final week of competition in the great Gastown of British Columbia:

- Following the embarrassing and medal costing spill of teammates Sung Si-bak and Lee Ho-suk in the final turn of the 1,500 short track speedskating final, South Korea will mandate that their skaters only crash if they are also able to take out Apolo Ohno.

- Dan Patrick will finally realize that he's not covering the X-Games when Bob Costas attempts to use the word 'gnarly' during an interview.

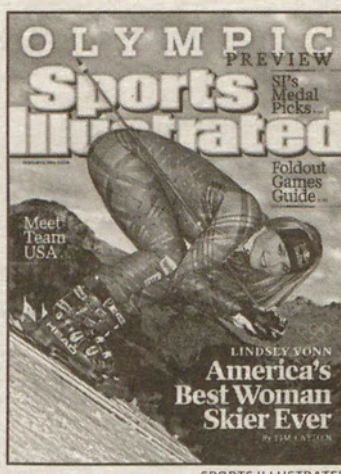
- Sean White will dramatically rid himself of his trivial "Flying Tomato" nickname when someone mistakes him for fellow snowboarder Lindsey Jacobellis, prompting him to shave his head and donate his hair to Johnny Weir's new faux fox fur skating outfit.

- After claiming bronze in downhill, American bad-boy skier Bode Miller will finally prove to his critics that he can win an Olympic medal while intoxicated. Look for silver in a swerving Giant Slalom final.

- Wayne Gretzky will reprise his role as 'The Great One' and lead the Canadian Hockey team to a geriatric Gold Medal victory over Russia. Walt Disney will immediately secure the movie rights and turn "Miracle: Canuck Style" into the most relevant movie about Canada since "Canadian Bacon."

- After 80 percent of competitors test positive for Rheumatoid Arthritis, the IOC will finally deem that Curling is just a stupid sport to have in the Olympics.

Cocky Norwegian cross-country skier Petter Northug will stir up controversy when he competes with a gigantic Viking broadsword and threatens to drink the blood of anyone who so much as looks at his horned ski helmet and chain mail spandex.



SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

Lindsey Vonn's sensationalized deep shin bruise will be just limiting enough to prevent her body from any more suggestive magazine positions when posing with her multiple medals.

Just as the Dutch would have considered it a failure if speedskater Sven Kramer didn't win them gold, Americans will consider it a failure if Shani Davis and Chad Hedrick don't prompt another media circus as they bicker about losing to Sven Kramer.

Jamaica's Errol Kerr will be stripped of his Ski Cross medal after the IOC determines that "there's just no way that Jamaica is any good at skiing."

In a practice run, American bobsled driver **Steve Holcomb** will bang his head on the ice, develop amnesia, and think that his unkempt appearance more likely resembles that of a middle aged, truck driving, deer hunting, Americana NASCAR fan from the south than one of the premier athletes of the world.

Canadian officials will be disappointed to find that at least 46 percent of Olympic competitors mistakenly thought that Vancouver was in the United States.

Canadian officials will be more disappointed to find that at least 34 percent of Olympic competitors mistakenly thought that Canada was in the United States.



ARMYMWR.COM



by Neil Andrew Francisco '10
A&E Staff

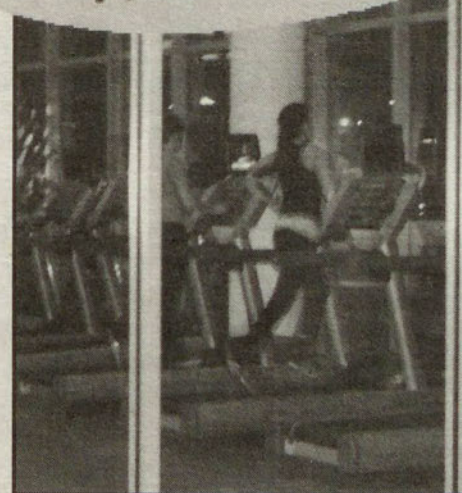
When people make New Year's Resolutions, they typically do not last very long. Some of the more popular resolutions to make going to the gym, lose weight, or something along the lines of that typical jargon. If you've been to the Concannon Fitness Center recently, you've seen the influx of people running on the treadmill, pumping iron, or doing other various exercises. Seeing people like this, a la working out, is both good and bad.

The good part about this is that people are staying true to their word. People make promises all the time; often times they do not keep them. I don't mean this to be offensive; I do the same thing. Last summer, I told myself I would read a really long

epic novel. I read a bunch of short novels, a few brief philosophical books, and some short stories, but I did not read the one piece of literature that I promised myself I would. I'm sure you've experienced something similar. It builds character when you can stay true to your word. The same goes for when you tell yourself to go to the gym and consistently do so.

The bad part is that I never get the chance to do some good cardio. I have two really bad knees. Unfortunately, it's difficult for me to run on a treadmill because it causes so much stress on my knees. I'm limited to doing cardio on a stationary bike or the elliptical. Since there aren't enough of these, I can't find a place very often. Part of the reason I can't do cardio is because I go at the wrong time. Another part has to do with the fact that Providence

Have You Heard?



SARA SPIRITO '11 / THE COWL

College supports 4,000 students who like to work hard and play hard. I guess this isn't really a bad part situation; more like a selfish one.

All I want to say is, kudos to you, Providence College students. Keep going to the gym and doing all that you can to stay healthy. Knowing how we spend our weekends, something has to be done to balance the equation.

TASTE of the TOWN

by Lindsay Sheehan '11
A&E Staff

Ladder 133 Bar and Grill 137 Douglas Ave Providence, RI 02908

You may have noticed that Stickyfingers has gone extinct. If there were to be an obituary, it might read something along the lines of, "We will miss your loaded nachos, sticky floors, and margarita pitchers." Before checking out the new bar and grill that has taken its place, I expected it to be similar to good ol' 'Sticky's.' It wasn't. It was better.

Ladder 133 Bar and Grill is a sports bar with the atmosphere of an upscale lounge. Yes, this sounds like an anomaly—and it is. Upon entering, we notice that one can come here for any sort of occasion. The right half of the restaurant is equipped with new booths and tables for dining while the left houses the bar surrounded by flat screen TVs. Upbeat music playing from large speakers makes it clear that this place can get pretty rowdy.

Ladder 133 gets its name from history—the building was once a firehouse. The owner could have gone two ways: throw a fire pole down the middle and make it truly authentic, or let

the theme be subtle, depicting a place where the firemen would grab a drink after a heated battle. They went for the latter, obviously, because Foxy Lady took their fire pole.

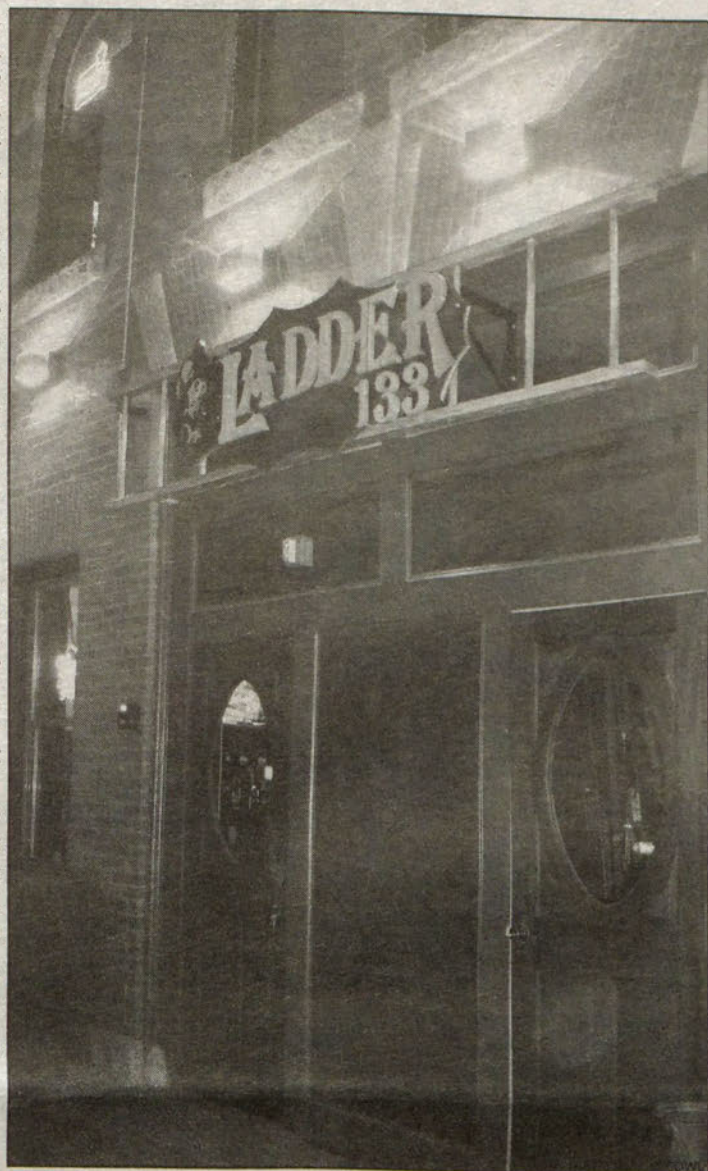
One can tell a lot about a restaurant by its glasses. Casual dining usually goes for a simple ribbed glass. Fine dining goes for the wine glasses, even if you're just drinking water. Most sport bars go for beer gauntlets even if you're not ordering a beer. Ladder 133 uses old glass jars, the kind that your eccentric uncle collects at his antique shop. The glasses give this establishment a unique vibe.

The menu consists of your typical American fare, with selections like a spinach dip appetizer, Firehouse Chili, burger entrées, and pizza. This Friday they are releasing their full menu which will include more entrée options. For an appetizer we were debating between the Wildfire Wings, skewers, or the loaded natural french fries. We went with the loaded fries. For the main course, I took the server's recommendation of their signature 133 Burger. The service was pretty efficient; then again, there was pretty scarce occupancy due to the holiday.

When the burger arrived, I felt like I was doing the fan challenge on *Man v. Food*. The 8 oz. burger was topped with chili, jalapeños, cheddar jack cheese, applewood bacon and special sauce, all for only \$8. The meat was juicy and cooked to my request. My date chose the buffalo chicken Fire Pole Sliders: These four multi-bite treats can also come as pulled pork sandwiches, Philly briskets, or bacon cheddar burgers. There are also "lighter" options such as the Swiss & 'Shroom sandwich and Caesar salad. Overall, we were satisfied with the large portions and attentive service. As two girls who ordered more than they could eat, we anticipated nursing our food comas: lying in the fetal position watching *Friends* reruns and groaning, "I can't believe I ate the whole thing."

For an appetizer and two entrées, the bill came to \$25...not too shabby. Although we went for dinner, I fully recommend checking out Ladder 133 as a night destination. Expect DJs, live bands, drink specials, and a good time.

Results: A definite upgrade from Stickyfingers.



In Vino Veritas

Christian Moueix Merlot Bordeaux

by Chris Stadolnik '10
A&E Staff

Vintner – Château Pétrus
Vintage – 2005
Appellation – Bordeaux
Style – Merlot
Grape/Fruit Content – Merlot (grape)
Region – Bordeaux, France
Average Cost – \$10 to \$13 per 750-ml bottle



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.TOPCELLAR.COM

French wine, *mon amour et ma vie*, isn't an economical indulgence, generally. But for an experience of pure liquid escapist joy, French wine is well worth the occasional expense. As Charles Baudelaire once said in his poem "The Lover's Wine," "*Partons à cheval sur le vin / Pour un ciel féérique et divin!*" – We'll gallop off on this good [French] wine / And race the stars around the moon."

The Merlot grape is the base fruit in many wine styles, but there are none in which it is utilized to such a degree of perfection as in the Bordelaise wines. Every bit of earthy fragrance and rich fruity complexity is squeezed from the Merlot to create a wine that has the explosive nose of a fruit bomb but still retains the subtlety and range of flavor to complement a wide range of food pairings. It is no surprise then that Merlot wines from Bordeaux have become one of the most popular styles of red in the domestic market.

Christian Moueix is a fine example of this well revered backbone of the wine market. The wine pours a rich maroon, almost black, and is

well filtered of any particulates. The aroma of fresh fruit and rich earth explodes from the glass. There are strong aromas of black cherries, raspberries and the spicy twinge of moist soil. The oak tannins and alcohol stand to the back of the nose. The flavor, unlike the aroma would belie, is much more complex than simply bold fruity flavors. The French oak and vanilla flavors are in the foreground of the palate. The fruit and earth round it all out on the back end. And the inversion of the profiles of aroma and taste is really quite unexpected and pleasant.

This is certainly a wine suited for a meal of duck or beef. The boldness of the flavor would also be complemented by sweeter side dishes like carrots Vichy or a sweet potato soufflé. Spend some of your tax returns on some good French wine and food. My suggestion is either Pot au Feu or Bravo and this Bordelaise Merlot. You can't take the money with you and *le vin Français est la vie*.

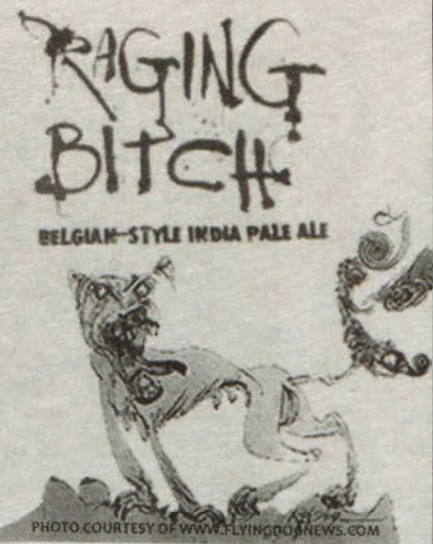
Grade: B+

Beer of the Week

Raging Bitch Belgian-Style IPA

by Chris Stadolnik '10
A&E Staff

Brewery: Flying Dog Brewery
Style: Alternative/Experimental
ABV: 8.3%
Country of Origin: United States
Region: Frederick, Maryland



Appearance: The Bitch pours a hazy orange-gold and is capped off by an off white head, which is thick, creamy and stands strongly. It laces well down the sides of the glass.

Smell: The nose is all hops. It is an explosion of bold floral and citrus notes from the outset. If you really bury your nose in the glass you catch a faint malt note, but it's more a sweet romp through a patch of wildflowers with the Bitch.

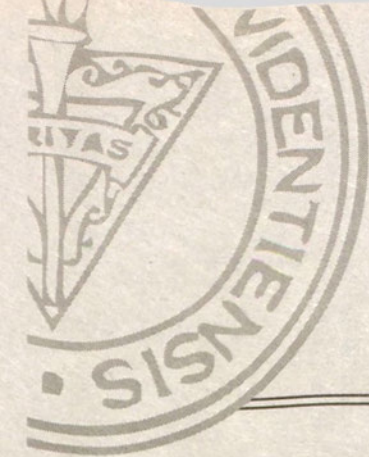
Taste: The flavors are big, bold, and beautiful. The beer really comes together well, and the malty sweetness is apparent in balance with an herbal bitterness. There is a pronounced citrus note that rounds out the flavor profile.

Mouthfeel: This is a big beer. The mouthfeel is heavy. There is a great payoff to forgoing the crispness of lighter ales; this Bitch has a bite.

Drinkability: This is not a tame fight for an evening (unless your name is Michael Vick). But if you like a challenge, grab a Bitch by the neck and give it a go. Don't bother with food. Just drink, live, and love a big-bodied Bitch.

I am constantly impressed by the daring experimentation going on in the fermentation tanks at Flying Dog. They don't always have the clear winner in the fight but the Dog's always show. I would venture to say that this is the best new brewer's beer of 2010. Those of you who have tried to experiment with different yeasts, challenging step mashers, fruit, spice or hop blends, or anything else that can be tweaked or improvised in the magical alchemy that is brewing will appreciate this beer. The Bitch doesn't quite hit the mark, the Belgian doesn't come through the IPA as strongly as one would like, but there are more batches for the master brewers at Flying Dog to approach perfection.

Overall Grade: B+



PROVING PHOTOGRAPHY

Page 22

February 18, 2010

What are you giving up for Lent?



"Ray food."

Megan Sforza '12, Mary Anderson '12



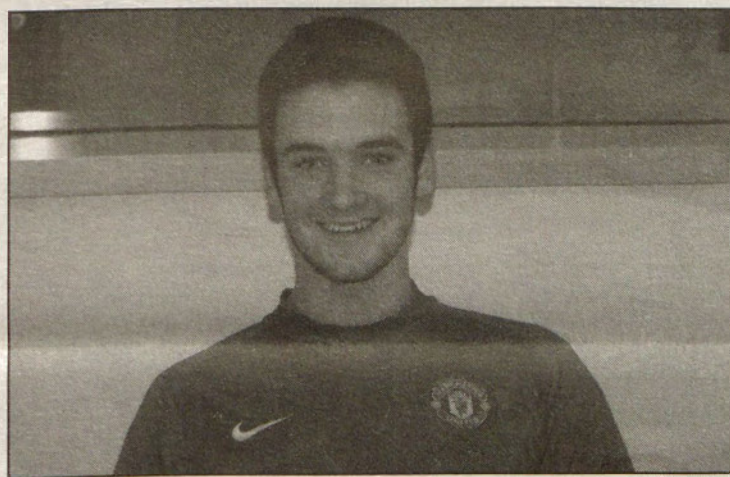
"Church."

Kerry Maxey '11, Fr. Batts, Conor Brown '11



"Talking to Chris Huber."

Mary Bogan '11, Sean Oliveira '10,
Giselle Youseff '11, Chris Huber '10



"M&Ms."

Ian Monteith '12



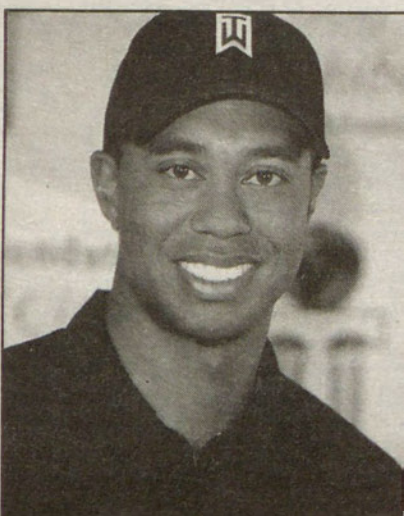
"Going to class!"

Max Widmer '12, John Cody '12, Nick Widmer '12



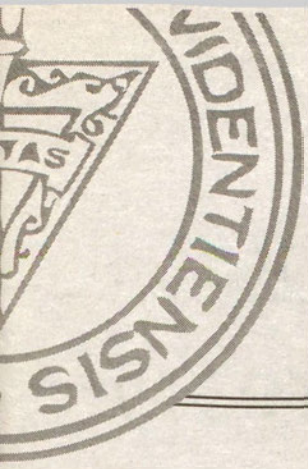
"PC Perk and Jazzmans."

Chris Mammen '11, Toni Raoseo '11



"Women."

- Tiger Woods



Once Upon a Time in Savannah

by Dara Plath '13
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

The backseat of our Dodge Durango is rough and on hot nights the leather sticks to my skin so I have to peel myself off of it like an old Band-Aid. The feel of leather isn't too bad, though, when you compare it to the smell. The smell is something of stale McDonald's french fries encrusted with a layer of gasoline and that horrible perfume Mom likes to wear. The smell gets into my head and likes to twist my brain into strange and painful shapes. I ask mom to roll down the windows, but she says then the bugs will get in, and do I want that to happen?

It's afternoon now so I don't have to worry about those things for a little while. We've just reached Savannah, Georgia, and I mark it down as one of my favorite places because we share the same name. I also love the trees. Their trunks are as large as a giant's arm and the branches reach out towards the sky, like fingers hoping to grasp a piece of heaven. What I like best, however, is the moss: it droops down from the branches like thin wisps of hair and swings frantically with even the slightest gust. Earlier today, we stopped at a diner to get breakfast and while Mom was in the bathroom I asked our waiter about the trees. He said they were Spanish moss trees and told me a story about them.

Once upon a time, there was a beautiful Spanish princess named Adonia. She lived in Savannah with her father, a very powerful and ruthless Spanish king. The king had promised his daughter to a man named Orlando. Yet Adonia was already in love with an English boy, Jackson, and they wanted to run away together. The

two lovers planned to meet beneath the giant Spanish moss tree; however, Orlando discovered the scheme and killed Jackson. Adonia was so heartbroken she vowed never to leave the tree again. Some say they can still hear Adonia as the wind rustles the moss, forever weeping for her lost love.

Mom's at an interview at some motel so I'm lying against the hood of the car, daydreaming about Adonia and Jackson. The heat from the car seeps into my skin and travels through my veins, warming every crevice of my body. My forehead is wet with sweat and I sweep it off with my hand, imagining that Jackson is stroking my hair. I see mom walk out of the motel, the click click click of her heels echoes in the heavy air and rests in the hollow of my ears. I can tell she didn't get the job because of the way her eyebrows furrow to the top of her head, like tiny caterpillars inching their way up a flower.

She kicks off her heels, gets into the car, and slams the door. I watch as her delicate hands grip the steering wheel, appearing to drag it forward until her forehead rests against the tan leather. Her curly brown hair falls forward, obscuring her thin face, though I know she's crying. I grab her heels off the ground and get into the car. She turns her head towards me and I watch as her mascara draws thin lines down her face.

Mom is beautiful, or at least she used to be. I have an old photograph of her when she was sixteen. She's wearing a short pink dress and a smile that stretches from one side of her face to the other. I think she's laughing because her head is tilted slightly up and her eyes are pressed together so



PHOTO COURTESY OF VALERIE LIKE

tiny creases form at the corners of her eyes. I keep the photo tucked tightly between the pages of my favorite book, *Jane Eyre*. I'm not as beautiful as mom. My hair is straight and thick and has the tendency to frizz in humid weather. My pale skin may have been considered striking if it weren't for the brown freckles smeared across my nose. While Mom may have been the Adonia of her time, I'm nothing more than a Jane Eyre.

Once upon a time, there lived an orphan named Jane. She was a plain girl who caught the eye of the secretive and handsome Mr. Rochester. However, the mystery of what lurked on the third floor of Thornfield Mansion haunted Jane.

Eventually, she discovered that it was Mr. Rochester's reclusive and insane wife. Jane fled from him and in the process discovered who she truly was. After many years, Jane returned to Mr. Rochester, who had been blinded in a fire. They fell in love and got married, living happily ever after.

The mascara has made its way down Mom's cheeks and I fish a tissue out of the glove compartment and hand it to her. We'll drive someplace else, away from these trees and their oversized trunks and crooked branches and strange moss. Mom digs the keys out from her purse and starts the car. The leather begins to stick to my skin, confining me in my own once upon a time.

A Fuzzy Case of Hindsight

by Lindsay Wengloski '10
Portfolio Staff

ESSAY

When we get too close to one thing or another, the things we see before us dissolve. The cheek of a friend smears freckles with nose, skin, wisps of hair, and becomes instead an indecipherable swath of color: pink, olive, brown. Eyes turn into grainy black circles sliced in half with each wrinkle of an eyelid. Mouths vanish into the morass.

Sometimes this is comforting, the realization of mutual vulnerability.

is beautiful. Without words, without pursed lips or frowns, we are bare, authentic, honest.

But this comfort and intimacy shouldn't be taken for granted. Sometimes we get too close to a person and the sound of their breathing is terrifying. The blinking of their eyeball is startling. It is as if we are seeing and experiencing an honesty they're offering that we don't want—at least, don't want anymore. We realize, in some unknowable place, that we have stepped too far into the other person. We have seen too much. Either our perceptions and expectations of who the other

of at their face. We close our eyes when hugging—when kissing—one another, as if by not seeing the lines of a face dissolve into warm color, the exchange's true meaning will be muted. This is not possible. The more I look at people and look at myself, the more I realize the exchanging of vulnerabilities can never be avoided, only delayed. Even when the delay is permanent—when we out and out refuse to experience another (grandmother, prom date, neighbor, whoever!) in this way, the lack of dissolution lingers on. Maybe it haunts us. Regardless, the true question of intimacy cannot remain unanswered. We know whether we are comfortable enough or not to dissolve in another's presence.

And sometimes we wonder what it would be like to watch the face of another melt in front of our own. We know, of course, that this too is not always possible. Part of the beauty of the experience—of watching a movie with a close friend and knowing their face next to yours (if you were to turn and look at them just then) would be nothing more than a nondescript blob—is its rarity. Certain people are destined to remain in crisp precision across the table from us, their freckles pinpricked, their hair angled sharply against their face.

“WE WONDER WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO WATCH THE FACE OF ANOTHER MELT IN FRONT OF OUR OWN”

Too close to recognize facial expressions, to register emotions through the usual channels, we rely instead on subtler cues. Accelerating or slowing heartbeat. Heavier-than-usual sighs. On occasion, the strange grinding sound of clenching teeth; The muffled hiccup of a pseudo-sob. In such close quarters, we engage with each other organically. We view our friend as a person of shifting mental planes, and, ideally, they recognize the same reality in us. This

person was have proved inaccurate, poisoning the embrace, or we turn and flee in the face of some fear the other person now embodies for us. Of course there are other endings for this scenario.

What I find most interesting about the naturalness (or unnaturalness) of the moment is the way in which some people try to avoid the situation entirely. We cast our eyes downward sometimes when we cuddle, stare at the buttons on another's shirt instead

Flavors

by Bobby Bretz '12
Portfolio Staff

Up in the morning,
Down to the ground
Charming, as always,
Strangely profound,
Top of the class,
Bottomless eyes—
He's a quarky guy.

The Road to Relapse

by Daniel James '11
Portfolio Staff

FICTION

Author's Note: The following is an excerpt from the novel The Road to Relapse by Daniel James

He remembers refusing to go to sleep-away camp because the idea of being away from his room put his insides through a paper shredder. He couldn't imagine the long nights without his own blanket and pillow, or the feeling of safety that came from knowing his mom and dad were in the next room. Even sleepovers were unappealing to him because he couldn't stand the gut-wrenching feeling he'd get when he was without the familiarity he'd grown up with. The only way he could sleep at night was if he was curled up in his own blanket with the door cracked just enough to let the blue hue from his parent's TV leak into his room as a reminder that even when the rest of the world is asleep he's not alone.

The more things change, the more things stay the same. When he grew into adolescence he would fight with his parents often, especially his father. There was no topic off limits in the verbal bouts that would leave the two of them red in the throat and blue in the face. But no matter how bad the war between them got, he could always retreat back to the sanctuary of his room. The bed acted as a bubble that would encase him and bring him away to a place where he could clear his head.

Even after the addition to his house and the change of bedrooms Dominic still found peace in his room that seemed parallel to a Buddhist temple. It was the one place in the world where he had control over the environment and himself. Nothing happened in his room without his say. And now here he stands in the darkness of his room, just a quarter after three in the morning on Sunday. Everything was almost exactly as he had left it before he moved into school. His desk was a little less cluttered, and some trash may have been thrown away, but other than that his temple had been left in peace. He takes a deep breath, inhaling the linen closet smell his room carried throughout his life.

He should feel at ease being back in his element. This was the one tiny room in the entire world where he had complete control over everything. This should bring him relief, but it doesn't. He scans over his room once more in the dark, his eyes readjusting to the night. His desk was in the same spot as always, his bookshelf had not moved, his TV was still positioned to face his bed, everything is as it should be but Dominic can't shake the unsettling feeling from his mind. Something is missing from his room, but he can't place what.

Everything appears exactly as it should, but Dominic can't contain his belief that all the objects in his room had shifted just slightly prior to his arrival. He tries to shake it off, his mind telling him that he's overtired and that's why he feels this way. Even as his head slams onto his pillow and he closes his eyes the scabbing idea of something being misaligned in his room subtly torments him.

Day

by Blake Bergeron '11
Portfolio Staff

Three streets over the horns honk for the mercy of God while the hungry pigeons sadly shit their last meal on the shoulders of a cowardly statue and a frizzled old man dissects spent cigarettes to fill his pipe with the ashes. We're all smoking the smoke of the week before and the week before that and it tastes like the weather.

The village harlot sleeps under the city's last tree, her skirt stained with beer, her bandana in tatters, cold and abandoned after her infirm lover's journey into night. Dapper men watch her sleep and toss pennies into the can at her feet, thankful for an organic moment of tranquility. Her skin glows saintly against her black hair while a wispy diamond sparkles above her wide set eyes, at the center of her brow.

From a second floor window faith echoes into the streets in dirty French, accompanied by the dissonant strings of a broken guitar. Twang, ting, bring they sing beside tales of fat cows, fatter milk maids and selfless Napoleons. It's a shame he can't write what he sings. If only anyone who mattered could read it. Only the holy.

A black dog trots by the woman, mangy and hopped up on the fumes of the electric graveyard. But kind. His mother taught him to be kind, then tugged him off her teat and sent him naked into the world. Naked and trembling he kisses her and naked and trembling she awakes—five cents short of the day's first beer.

In waking she picks the strings from the sky and balls them up to purpose. Curving their life and ignoring their tarnish she suits them to the heart. Raising them to the sky she lets them explode into the sooty street, amazing storefronts with the reverent display of gold and bronze. So she rises to her feet—still five cents short of the day's first beer.

A Dreary February

by Katie Caliva '10
Associate Editor-in-Chief

ESSAY

February is a lonely sort of month, a fact that has nothing whatsoever to do with the pink and frilly holiday that we just observed. February's loneliness is divorced from romance and dependent on the weather. Perhaps if I were to spend this month in a more tropical climate, I would feel differently about it. As it stands, however, I am a northeastern dweller and I say that February is lonely.

The air is cold and dry, without the real bouts of snow that mitigate the bitterness of the wind. Trees have lost their leaves and their charm; they give the appearance of a coma, a stupor from which they will never emerge. Nights come too early in February. The twilight descends before it is bidden and sets in long before it is wanted. February is suffocating like that.

It was 7:00 p.m. when I left my apartment to go for a walk. I craved fresh air and endorphins, neither of which was abundant within the cinderblock walls. I was not expecting the intensity of the night: cold and clear, stars standing out prominently in the cloudless sky. 7:00 is an odd time to wander campus on a Friday night. The boys of St. Joe's were already beginning their revelry, while the slightly more mature residents of Davis were still eating dinner. I tarried on Guzman hill, listening to the howling male freshmen and peering into the windows of Davis apartments. In a rare moment of appreciation for February, I was glad to be alone.

My walk took me around lower campus, skirting the populated buildings and sticking to the shadows whenever possible. My hands felt chapped, exposed to the unforgiving February wind. They begged for gloves. I thrust them deeper into the pocket of my jacket, shielding them as I wandered. I came to the fish pond by Hunt-Cavanagh, where a statue of some Dominican saint stands as protector over koi. It's a favorite haunt of mine. In warmer weather, I often sit on the brick stairs sketching poorly or scribbling wildly on whatever paper I happen to have on hand. Usually I end up just sitting, staring blankly at the flowering bushes, and regaining some modicum of sanity.

Sanity, or at the very least something resembling sanity, is what I was seeking that night. I could not, however, repose by the pond. Lights and voices from the art building startled me and the February wind completed the rout. I kept moving, seeking some alcove where I could just be. I found none. The month that I long associated with loneliness offered me no place where I could be alone.

In defeat, I returned home. My apartment was warm and bathed in yellow light. Something was cooking; the scent of tomato sauce was comforting after forty-five minutes in the cold. The glow and the aroma transformed the cinderblock space into a haven. The wind howled outside, but it did not bother me. For the moment, February failed to make me lonely.

Staff Pick of the Week

The Ayatollah Begs to Differ

by Hooman Majd

Hooman Majd, a New York-dwelling journalist and son of a Shiite religious leader, lifts Iran's black chador to reveal the chic young people who smoke opium from beautiful pipes upside-down—to get the best puff. There's also an Iran where artists host huge parties in their clandestine Tehran lofts, though everyone there knows the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence always sends in a spy. Majd shows a side of Iran that CNN does not broadcast by detailing his experiences growing up and knowledge gleaned from his travels in the country as a news reporter. It's a read that won't fail to shock you.

—Alex BetGeorge '11



The Art of Learning How to Swim

by **Conor Leary '11**
Asst. Portfolio Editor

FICTION

Wait at least thirty minutes before plunging away the hot summer day after a large meal. Mom's repeated phrase you thought she only said to give her a few minutes to eat in peace after making sure you didn't choke on the barbeque selections holds some authenticity. Never jump into the swimming pool with a full stomach. It won't weigh you down like an anchor. It's all explained by biology. The energy needed to keep your head afloat is disengaged by the systematic digestion of your stomach. As your legs and arms pump and wade, your stomach steals their proper energy. It does this slowly, sapping it away. You might even feel it happening. It could be a sharp pain suddenly in your thigh, which interrupts your exclamation of an Italian explorer's first name. It might just feel like your legs are slowing down, growing numb with every muscle working to keep your small neck only half-submerged in the chlorinated water. Your legs will grow numb, but before the panic can infect your brain, you believe just for a second you could swim with no arms and no legs. Swimming is almost effortless.

Your mother lets you swim in the pool without her supervision (although she secretly sits inside in the air-conditioned house reading her leisure novel in the reflection of the window). You're young, but this moment is a small step into a world you have only known with someone watching you. First instructor, then parent, and then lifeguard when you visited public swimming areas. Be sure to savor the feeling and swallow the fear making your tiny throat tremble.

Go on and give a look over your shoulder to make sure your mother hasn't broken her promise and followed you outside to read on her lounge, something you might even want to see, but still sneer at her for

doing. Ignore the floating apparatus and lifejackets you hated as a child. You hated them for how they held you, how they incapacitated you from completely exploring your aquatic surroundings, and how a parent was always supposed to be swimming next to you as you tried to swim. Stand at the edge of the pool and watch your reflection stare up at you. It might look extremely nervous. It might look completely exhilarated.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IRWIN PETERSON

Don't call for your mother or your father or a friendly off-duty lifeguard who might just be strolling by and want another high stool to sit on. Stand strong in front of your wavering figure. Stare it down.

Remember the pool parties, the days at the pool, or at the beach. Fill your mind with the sounds of fun.

Don't forget to hold your breath! Don't plug your nose with your fingers though. Let go of all fear and leap from the side of the pool.

Your mother's breath will catch in her throat when you go under. Her hand will tear the edge of a page down into an elongated dog's ear as you plunge into the water. Be sure to open your eyes, even if the water is heavily chlorinated. They won't burn until later. Observe the surroundings, feel the cool breeze swarm over your skin and throw your swimsuit upward. Touch the bubbles. Hold them.

Be sure to always break the surface of the ocean immediately! Once you've run along the sand, when hours of building sandcastles or digging your feet deeper and deeper into the grains as you escape into some literary indulgence get too hot, throw your body out. Let it soar like the nasty seagulls squawking overhead, the beastly birds that hover and wait for the smallest child to drop the smallest crumb. You've grown and you know better than to feed the birds.

Dive instead and meet the break in the waves with no feet. Have them fly over the frothy seawater, following after your pointed hands. Never suck in the briny liquid when your body has successfully dived underneath the crash. It is never intelligent to drink water when you're swimming. Think of the ocean as more of a public amenity than a swimming hole and you won't be tempted. Swing your arms and your legs, your fingers and your toes until you've left the sand behind. Stay where the currents are calm and the waves pick you up gently like clouds passing beneath you and politely dropping you back into place.

There's no need to swim out towards the horizon. No doggie paddle or breaststroke will help your reach it. Befriend a sailor or some wealthy socialite and swim with a boat beneath you, whether it is a paddleboat or yacht. Either is a better alternative to immortally testing the strength of the human person. Every person can acquire the ability to swim. Our bodies are somewhat buoyant and the pattern is repetitious, something the brain learns like chewing. Paddle with the right hand, kick, paddle with the left hand, kick and repeat. Repeat until you've figured out no muscle is strong enough to reach what is beyond the horizon.

Never let him tell you the horizon is closer than you think. Even if you're standing on the shore of a lake, watching the beautiful sun disappear beyond the unknown territory. You'll be tempted to go after it and you'll make plans to explore the mysterious horizon when the sun has completely disappeared. Until then with the swelling darkness brushing over the orange easel, you'll sit with him on the murky sand. It won't be like the sand at the beach. It'll be hard and brown and have pieces of grass poking out of it. You'll pull at these simple blades as you watch him lying in his swim trunks. His head will cock back at the simplest joke you utter and his smile will bring the radiance of the stars alive. He'll point them out and help you notice the effect a summer day by the lake has had on his skin. No longer wet, it'll be like tepid bronze, hot out of the stove. You will hear him explaining some story about a struggling astrological warrior and see his skin as the warrior's armor.

He will be the participant in the legendary stories he teases you through, his fingers rising from the sand and touching the knots out of his dark hair. He'll jump to his feet and pull you along. Whether with actual physical contact or simply by his rising body, you will have no idea. He'll stand ready as if he wishes to race. The competition will begin once you've taken your spot behind the starting line, invisible in the darkness and the sand. He'll give a grin before touching you on your side. The contact will jaunt you forward but he'll be off quicker.

Never let your feet touch the bottom of a lake. You won't be able to see your toes, but you'll be able to feel the sensations of unpaved Eden. It'll make you want to leap out of the water and maybe never even swim again.

You'll do as you're told, do as you're supposed to, and do as you're challenged to do. Without help, without proper supervision, and without floatation devices, you'll realize the horizon is too far to reach. You'll stop and wade in the water for a little longer with the notion to turn back. Turn back and swim to shore! You won't though. You'll linger, waiting for him to realize his boyish dreams are soon to be crushed by the dreaded combination of reality and anatomy. When he does, he'll turn around slowly, paddling like a sad puppy that chased a speedboat into the dark waters. He'll come up to you and mourn his failed plan like the warrior reliving his most painful battlefield moments.

Don't touch him! Don't even swim. Never even reach your right or left hand out to turn back towards shore because you will inevitably feel him. The slightest bit of contact would be too much. When you do touch him, whether you were trying to swim away or you had thrown caution into the night wind, remember how to swim. When you touch his face, his neck, his shoulder, his stomach, him, remember how your body is working to keep you afloat. Remember the first steps of learning how to swim.

Keep your legs bent!
Keep your arms moving!
Push every bit of water away!
Never swim on a full stomach!
Always remember to breathe when you go underwater!

Never forget these steps for any reason. Never let your heart stop even for a second. Don't let him stop it! Never stop swimming even for a second. When a body doesn't swim, it drowns.

Poems By Google™

by **Kaly Thayer '10**
Portfolio Staff

Why...

- why do men have nipples?
- why did I get married?
- why is it called Black Friday?
- why is the world going to end in 2012?
- why is a raven like a writing desk?
- why can't I get a girlfriend?
- why didn't she call back?
- why didn't he call back?
- why is Pluto not a planet?

Stump! trivia



Thursday, February 25th
9:00pm in McPhail's

Come show off your trivia knowledge for a chance to win some great prizes!

FREE ICE CREAM SUNDAE BAR!

Sponsored by **PC AFTER HOURS**

Want a fun way to work out?
Can't do daytime?
Want to go in PC's awesome pool without feeling awkward?
All of the above?
None of the above?



Then have WE got news for YOU!!!!

Aqua Fitness is back!



Who: Students, faculty, anyone!
Even you! Yes, you!
What: a fun-filled 45-minute water aerobics class!
When: Tuesdays at 7 PM (and also still Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 11:30 AM!)
Where: Peterson pool
Why: to feel good, trim down, bust most importantly HAVE FUN!!!
How: Just come on down!!

Residence Life Presents...



Lucrative prizes, including:

- Next semester's books paid for up to \$400! (Classes of 011, 012, 013)
- Grad school application & aptitude test (LSAT, GRE, MCAT, etc.) fees paid for up to \$400! (Class of 010)
- Round trip travel for 2 to NYC with free admission to select venues!
- And much more!!

Step 1: Spelling test on Sunday, February 21 at 4pm in Moore Hall II

Step 2: Spelling Bee event on Wednesday, February 24 at 7pm in McPhail's, where this year's champion will be crowned!

Register by e-mailing reslife@providence.edu, or come directly to the spelling test; all class years are encouraged to participate!

Not into spelling? Not bold enough to step on stage? Live the experience vicariously through the finalists! Come watch and support them in their quest for the grand prize!

Roller Skating

Friday, 2/19

9:00pm-1:00am, '64 Hall

Come skate the night away

FREE event - skates included!

FREE refreshments!



Sponsored by

PC AFTER HOURS



McPhail's



Slavin Center

(401) 865-1120

AIM: McPhails02

mcphails@providence.edu



Classic Trax!

Fri, 2/19
McPhail's
8:00 PM



McPhail's Hours:

Sun - Wed 2pm-12am

Thurs - Sat 2pm-1am

McPhail's Bar Hours:

Friday 4:30pm-1am

Saturday 8pm-1am

McPhail's IM: McPhails02

(401) 865-1120

Check us out on Facebook!

Full Bar w/ID!

All are welcome!

Every Wednesday is

PC



\$2 Milkshake Day!!

It's back! Grab your hat and a partner and head over to...

COUNTRY NIGHT

McPhail's
Saturday, Feb. 20th

LIVE MUSIC BY
JAY DEMPSZY AND HIGHWAY CALL

Sponsored by:

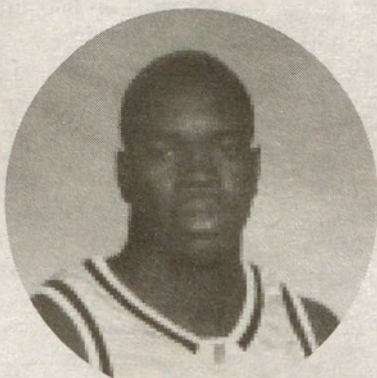
bop



Friars Scoreboard

Scores • Standings • Statistics • Schedules • Standouts

Standouts



Men's Basketball
Sophomore — Brooklyn, N.Y.
Peterson notched a double-double with 20 points and 15 rebounds in the Friars' loss at the hands of West Virginia on Wednesday, Feb. 17.

Shelby Greany
Women's Cross Country
Freshman — Suffern, N.Y.
Greany took first place in the U.S. Junior Cross Country Championships. The freshman ran the 6K course in a time of 20:27.

Scores

Friday, 2/12		
Women's Hockey vs. Connecticut	T, 3-3 (SOW)	
Men's and Women's Diving at Big East Champ.	Ind. Res.	
Softball vs. No. 20/25 UMass	L, 14-3	
Women's Track at Valentine Invitational	Ind. Results	
Men's Hockey at UNH	L, 5-2	
Saturday, 2/13		
Men's and Women's Diving at Big East Champ.	Ind. Results	
Men's Basketball at Villanova	L, 92-81	
Women's Basketball at Marquette	W, 53-44	
No. 8/9 Women's Hockey at Connecticut	L, 4-1	
Softball vs. North Florida	L, 4-0	
Softball vs. North Carolina State	L, 4-2	
Men's Track at Valentine Invitational	Ind. Results	
Sunday, 2/14		
Softball vs. Southern Illinois	L, 5-3	
Tuesday, 2/16		
Women's Basketball vs. Cincinnati	W, 59-44	

Schedules

Thursday, 2/18	
Men's and Women's Swimming at Big East Champ.	6:00 p.m.
Friday, 2/19	
Men's and Women's Swimming at Big East Champ.	6:00 p.m.
Men's Hockey vs. Boston University	7:00 p.m.
Women's Hockey at Vermont	7:00 p.m.
Saturday, 2/20	
Women's Basketball at Connecticut	1:00 p.m.
Men's and Women's Swimming at Big East Champ.	6:00 p.m.
Men's Hockey at Boston University	7:00 p.m.
Women's Hockey at Vermont	4:00 p.m.
Women's Track at Big East Championships	All Day
Men's Track at Big East Championships	All Day
Sunday, 2/21	
Women's Track at Big East Championships	All Day
Tuesday, 2/23	
Men's Basketball vs. Syracuse	7:00 p.m.

Standings

Women's Hockey East							Women's Basketball Big East (Top 12)				
Team	Hockey East			Overall			Team	Big East		Overall	
	W	L	T	W	L	T		W	L	W	L
Connecticut	10	4	5	19	7	6	Connecticut	12	0	26	0
New Hampshire	12	5	2	18	6	5	Notre Dame	10	1	23	1
Providence	9	5	5	13	10	9	West Virginia	10	2	23	3
Boston Univ.	8	6	5	12	8	12	Georgetown	9	2	20	4
Northeastern	8	6	5	16	8	6	St. John's	9	4	21	5
Boston College	6	9	4	7	15	10	Rutgers	7	5	15	11
Vermont	5	13	1	10	20	1	Providence	6	6	15	10
Maine	3	13	3	6	18	5	South Florida	5	6	14	10
							Syracuse	5	7	18	7
							DePaul	5	7	16	10
							Marquette	5	7	14	11
							Cincinnati	4	8	11	13

Greany '13 Wins Junior U.S. Cross Country Title

by Dan O'Brien '10
Sports Staff

TRACK

Mission accomplished. After battling nagging injuries and seasonal sicknesses, the Men's and Women's track teams wrapped up their pre-conference meets at Boston University's Valentine Invitational, adding eight additional Big East qualifiers in the process.

The highlight of the weekend, however, wasn't a performance on the Boston University track or the East Coast. Rather, it was Shelby Greany '13 running her way to the US Cross Country National Championship in the junior women's division in Spokane, Wash., earning her a spot in next month's World Cross Country Championship in Poland.

In a trip marred by cancelled flights and delays, Greany and classmate Sam Roecker '13 eventually made it to Spokane, unfazed by their long trip and intent on competing against the best in the country. Head Coach Ray Treacy, in his 26th year at the helm, praised both Greany and Roecker for their races, noting that a transcontinental flight during the winter of their freshman year is a daunting journey, but one that he knew they were capable of. "Shelby's initial goal was to make the top six and to get on the team," said Treacy. "She put herself in a great position to do so and she ran very patiently, making her move at the right time."

Roecker finished one minute behind Greany, placing 13th overall, but more importantly showed her limitless potential as she matures into one of the premier runners in the country.

Back on the East Coast, the men's and women's team ran their last race before this weekend's Big East Championship in New York City. Previously stricken by illness and

injury, the men's team had a breakout weekend, sending four more athletes to this weekend's championship meet. Dominic Channon '12 placed fifth overall in the mile, clocking in with a time of 4:02.32.

"Dom running 4:02 after coming off antibiotics the Monday before the race makes you believe that he can run under 4 minutes," said Treacy. A sub-four mile has not been accomplished since David McCarthy '11 and Hayden McLaren '10 broke the four minute barrier last winter. Also returning to action was Lee Carey '12, placing 13th overall in the 3,000-meter race, earning himself a trip to the conference championship meet this weekend and confidence as he looks towards the final indoor races of the season. Also qualifying in the 3,000-meter race were Richard Yeats '10G and Tom Webb '10, both running under the 8:24.24 standard.

In addition to Greany and Roecker's performances in Spokane, the Lady Friars had much to celebrate on Boston University's track. With four more women achieving their Big East Championship qualifying times, Coach Treacy has watched his young team develop into consistent performers, with eight women achieving not only the Big East standard, but also the ECAC qualifying time in the 3,000-meters. Breffini Twohig '10 paced the Friars through the Valentine Invitational, placing eighth in the 3,000-meter race, closely followed by Krystal Douglas '10, running 9:47.84. In the mile race, Katie DiCamillo '10G ran well below the Big East qualifying time of 5:08.44, running 4:58.95 and placing 17th in the process. And wrapping up the scorers for the Lady Friars was Caitlin Lawrence '10, placing 7th in the high jump and earning her spot in New York City this weekend.

Next up for the Friars is a trip to New York City, where they will compete in the Big East Championship meet taking place on Saturday, Feb. 20.

Friars Go Winless in Season-Opening Tourney

by Dan McNamara '13
Sports Staff

SOFTBALL

Even though there is still snow on the ground here in Providence, the Softball Team took to the field for the first time this season under fifth-year Head Coach Kerri Jacklets. The Friars hope to build on last season's strong pitching staff that is led by ace Danielle Bertollette '10. Joining Bertollette in the rotation will be Alicia Grosso '12, who had a strong year last year with five wins and four complete games, and Corinne Clauss '13, who is expected throw some quality innings this year for the Friars.

The infield will be anchored at third base by Katelyn Revens '10 who already holds the Providence career record for stolen bases with 44.

"Our experience and depth is in our

North Florida's hurler, Devyn Findley. Findley held the Friars to a measly four hits and fanned an impressive 14 batters. Despite the offensive struggle, Providence received a strong outing from Kathryn Sullivan '11 who tossed a complete game while giving up four runs and striking out three.

Hoping to salvage against a good NC State team, Providence once again came up just a bit short. After trailing 2-0 in the seventh inning, Michelle Huber '12 came through in the clutch with a game-tying two-run single. However, in the bottom half of the frame, the Wolfpack's Kristine Bechtholdt pounded a two-run homer to help propel NC State to a 4-2 victory.

The Friars took the field on Sunday looking to come out of Florida with a win on their resume but failed to do so as they were defeated by Southern Illinois 5-3. The Friars took an early lead in the first inning when Jessie Bryant '13 capped off a three-run



COURTESY OF SPORTS INFO

Staff ace Danielle Bertollette '10 and the softball team got off to a rocky start to the new season this past weekend, dropping four straight games. The Friars return to action this weekend when they head to Boca Raton, Fla., to play in the Florida Atlantic Strike Out Cancer Tournament.

infield," said Revens. "Our outfield is young but will improve as the season goes on."

Hoping to get off to a fast start, the Friars came up empty this past weekend as they played a slew of games against tough teams in Miami. In their first matchup of the weekend, PC squared off the University of Massachusetts, who entered the game ranked No. 20/25 in the nation. Looking to prove themselves worthy of their pre-season ranking, UMass put a drubbing on the Friars. After Revens scored an unearned run in the first inning to put PC on the board, it was all UMass. They scored twice in the bottom half of the first and put two more runs on the board in the second. The Friars inched closer in the fourth after Ava Pandiani '11 drove a two-run double to right, but the game ended at a score of 14-3 in five innings to end the Friars first game at the FIU Combat Classic.

The Friar nine looked to bounce back on Saturday, Feb. 13 when they took the field against North Florida and then NC State but they fell in both contests by a scores of 4-0 against and 4-2 respectively. In the first game of the twin billing, PC was stifled by

rally with a two-run double to put PC up 3-0. The Salukis tied the game up at 3 in the fifth and then capped off a victory off a two-run go ahead single in the seventh to seal the game.

Despite the obvious disappointment of opening the season with four straight losses, Revens believes that their next trip to Florida will be more successful. They will travel down to Boca Raton on February 26, to compete in the Florida International "Strike Out Cancer" Tournament.

"All the freshman will play a large role this year and the whole team has been practicing hard," said Revens. "We're excited and confident that our season will be very successful."

The Friars have seven games in four days in their next tournament and are looking ahead to future games. They will compete in a UCF Tournament down in Orlando starting March 5, and will face teams such as Boston College, Harvard and the College of Charleston. The Friars open their Big East season at Pitt on March 27, and open up at home against Fairfield on March 30. With all the young talent and senior leadership provided on this Friar team, they have high hopes this season and in the years to come.

Start Your Career in Accounting.



Northeastern's MS in Accounting/MBA for non-accounting majors:

- Earn two degrees in just 15 months.
- Complete a 3-month paid residency at a leading accounting firm.
- Proven track record of 100% job placement.

Take the first step.

Visit us online or at an information session near you. Learn more about the program and upcoming events at www.msamba.neu.edu.

617-373-3244
gspa@neu.edu
www.msamba.neu.edu

Northeastern University



If you have any topics for debate, e-mail PCI
cowlsports@gmail.com

Which sport are you most excited to watch at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics?

The Winter Olympics is upon us and it sure is not lacking storylines. World-class skier Lindsey Vonn is battling a bruised shin, the hopes of an entire Canadian nation rest on the shoulders of a 22-year-old hockey player, Americans look to dominate the snowboarding field yet again, and the medal count race seems tighter than ever. With all that in mind, I have narrowed my focus and intrigue onto one sport in particular, Speedskating.

Speedskating is like a roller derby, except faster and on ice. Some people tune into NASCAR for the crashes, well I take the same approach for Olympic Speedskating, both long and short track. It is fantastic television because anything can happen to anyone at any time. Look at the race that already took place this past weekend. Apollo Ohno looked as if he was not going to place, but then—crash! Two of the South Koreans favored to medal collided with the other skaters, eliminating themselves from contention. The shortness of some events has its appeal too. Some of the favored events of the summer games are swimming and track. The common element is that the events are quick, so you cannot take your eye off the screen. One false move can cost one skater and benefit another. There is no room for mistakes because there simply is not any time to make up for it. Let's get serious; how many of us get bored watching cross-country skiing or biathlons? Sure they are great, but I can step out for a couple minutes, come back, and not have missed anything of significance.

I am also intrigued by the sport because of the storylines that go along with it. You have Ohno who is one medal shy of becoming the most decorated U.S. Winter Olympic athlete ever. Shani Davis became the first black athlete to win a gold medal in an individual Winter Olympic event back in 2006. Davis is back and even better, being the current world record holder in both 1,000-meter and 1,500-meter long track events. Can he bring home the gold in both? And as a side note, can Stephen Colbert, official sponsor of the U.S. Speedskating team, win a gold medal? The team was out of a prominent sponsor and funding for training about a year ago before Colbert Nation stepped in. Colbert already has an Emmy and Golden Globe, so winning a gold medal would make him the most decorated pundit in television history.

So no matter what sport you are tuning into, wear that Red, White, and Blue proudly and root for all of Team USA.

— Chris Crawford '10

To quote CAPiTA Snowboarding, a leading board producer, "We snowboard. We take risks. We aren't the same. We make conservative moms mad, and encourage their children to follow a path towards artistic and athletic expression."

Snowboarding is a very hip and modish sport, evidenced by its trendy fashion and unique jargon. To a boarder, 'Poptarts' and 'Canadian Bacon' aren't items on the breakfast menu. 'Iguana Air' is not the name of an airline. The term 'Slob' is not used to describe your sloppy, younger brother. And a 'McTwist' is not a new dessert at McDonald's. Instead, they are just a few of the many uniquely and unusually named tricks that snowboarders have created over the years. Although the snowboarding population used to consist of mainly 'dudes,' more and more adults are beginning to catch the boarding fever.

Since becoming an Olympic event in 1998, people from across the globe have been captivated by the men's halfpipe competition—a snowboarding event in which competitors are awarded points by a panel of judges based on the difficulty and eccentricity of their tricks. The event, market by breathtaking, circus-like stunts has become one of the most exciting events in the Winter Olympics.

Although there are many reasons for this event's popularity, 23-year-old superstar Shaun White deserves a significant portion of the credit. Nicknamed "The Flying Tomato," White is famous for his arsenal of mind-boggling jumps, flips, and spins, as well as his long, flowing red mane. Combining an abundance of talent and confidence, a cool demeanor, a sense of elegance, a unique physical appearance, and a fair amount of sex appeal, Shaun White has become the Michael Phelps of the Winter Olympics.

Because of all that White encompasses, he has become the face of American snowboarding and extreme sports. He is probably the most recognizable face in the Winter Olympic Games, and Americans are lucky to have an athlete such as White representing them. This year, White is expected to win another gold medal in the men's halfpipe. When White brings his A game, he is virtually impossible to beat. Although he seems like a very down-to-earth guy, when he gets on his snowboard he is anything but down-to-earth. One can only hope that he comes back down to earth in time to accept his gold medal.

— Nick Aiken '12

Here's to Your Health: Dealing with Stress

by Meghan Conway '12
Sports Staff

HEALTH

You have two papers due this week, a presentation tomorrow, a meeting at eight, a killer head cold, you're in a fight with your roommate, and life has never felt so tough. We've all been there. It's called stress and it can really get the best of us. Stress can trigger anxiety, fatigue, muscle tension, acne, and moodiness. While the effects of stress can be detrimental, certain stress management techniques can help. Consciously incorporating stress management into your day can really improve your life.

I think it's safe to say that at Providence College, students experience varying degrees of stress on a daily basis. As busy college students on tight budgets, it would be ridiculous for me to advise you to take a day off, spend it at a waterfront spa in Newport getting a hot stone massage, a deep cleansing facial, and a slice of lemon-lavender pie. However, I can suggest some practical—and generally free—alternatives that are available right here at One Cunningham Square.

Exercise: A healthy body makes a healthy mind. Working out not only keeps your body in shape but also activates your endorphins: the neurotransmitters that reduce pain and make you feel good. As little as 20 minutes of physical activity a day can boost your mood and lower your stress level. Between treadmills, bikes, free weights, and more, Concannon Fitness Center provides PC students with a great venue to get into a regular workout routine. In addition, group exercise classes such as toning, zumba, yoga, kickboxing, and spinning are offered weekly. If the gym doesn't float your boat, join an intramural team or take a walk or jog around campus. A workout a day will keep your stress away!

Beat Procrastination: For some, procrastination is a lifestyle, but for others it results in a crushing amount of stress. If procrastinating is causing you unwanted stress, it's time to admit you have a problem. One way to change your ways is to set realistic goals for yourself. Instead of hibernating in the library for 10 hours with a supersized black coffee the night before your paper is due, set aside just a half an hour a day the week before the due date to get some work done while you're feeling less pressed for time. If this sounds impossible, try rewarding yourself with an episode of

your favorite TV show or a game of Wii with every hour of work you get done. Still feeling overwhelmed? Make a list and remember the euphoric feeling you get when you excitedly cross out your completed task. You'll be surprised how fast your stress evaporates when you simply start your work instead of agonizing over it while you stalk people on Facebook.

Find Your Happy Place: On super stressful days when you're filled with torment and on the verge of tears, your friends or parents will recommend "taking a deep breath." This advice is usually taken figuratively rather than literally. Believe it or not, breathing exercises are one of the best ways to fight stress and relax. If you find yourself weighed down by stress, take five or 10 minutes, no matter where you are, to concentrate on your breath. Try breathing in through your nose and out through your mouth, making the length of the inhale equal to that of the exhale. While breathing, try to visualize yourself in a place where you feel at peace, whether this be sitting on the beach, skiing snowy slopes, or gazing at a starry sky. Imagine what you can see, hear, feel, and smell. Breathing and visualization techniques can also be accompanied with light stretching. We're all different, so invent a relaxation routine that works for you. Come up with something that can be put into practice whether you're cheering for the Friars at the Dunk, taking notes in Civ, or hanging out in your room.

Treat Yourself: When stressed with schoolwork and extracurricular activities, many of us forget to pamper ourselves. Doing something you enjoy is a great way to relieve stress. Fortunately for the students of Providence College, endless entertainment and leisure activities are at our fingertips. You name it, PC's got it—Division I sports games, theatre productions, movie nights, art galleries, concerts, ice-skating, video games, speed dating, and pretty much anything else you can think of. When you're feeling plagued by stress, check out the SAIL Digest and you're bound to spot something you're into. Treating yourself doesn't have to mean buying a \$300 dress from Nordstrom, it can be as simple as reading a magazine or sending an e-mail to an old friend.

Don't let stress get you down. Learn how to cope with it daily and you'll soon find yourself feeling healthier and happier!

HOOPS: Struggles Continue

continued from back page

Wildcats. Playing before a packed house at the Wachovia Center, Nova raced out to an early 11-3 advantage as Scottie Reynolds, Reggie Redding, and Corey Stokes all drained threes in the game's opening minutes.

In danger of being blown out on the road, the Friars weathered the storm and battled their way back into the game. The Providence zone press forced a number of uncharacteristic turnovers from the experienced Villanova back-court and offensively, Curry put the Friars on his back. The Friars' senior leader went 3-5 from downtown and finished with 11 first-half points, helping Providence to remain within striking distance, down 40-35, at intermission.

PC came out hot to start the second-half, stringing together a 7-0 run which gave the Friars a 42-40 lead with 18:20 remaining in the game. The teams continued to trade blows until Curry was whistled for a very questionable

foul call which prompted an insuing technical foul on Curry.

The replay not only showed that Curry was not at fault for the foul call, but he also did not appear to do anything that would warrant a technical foul. What made matters worse was that the technical also counted for Curry's fifth personal foul, making him ineligible to return.

The loss of Curry was certainly a devastating blow to the Friars and following his dismissal, Nova went on a 9-2 run to push the game out of reach.

When the final horn sounded, Villanova came away with a 92-81 win. For the game, had four players reach double-figures in scoring. Council led the way with 21 points followed by Peterson, Curry and Dixon, who scored 19, 19, and 11 respectively.

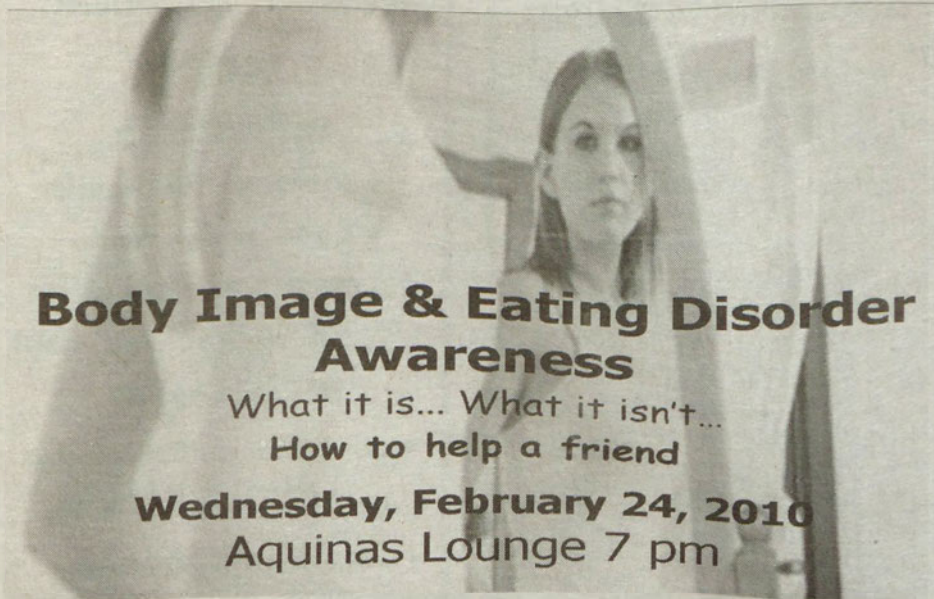
The Friars have this weekend off before squaring off against No. 5 Syracuse on Tuesday, Feb. 23.

Body Image & Eating Disorder Awareness

What it is... What it isn't...

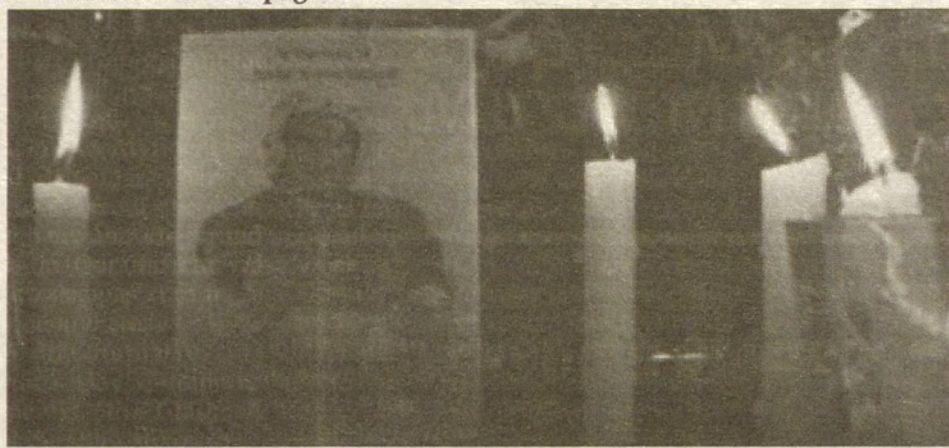
How to help a friend

Wednesday, February 24, 2010
Aquinas Lounge 7 pm



LUGE: Georgian Killed on Track

continued from back page



Nodar Kumaritashvili's tragic accident has put a damper on this year's Olympic Games. REUTERS.COM

three major news networks, CBS, NBC, and ABC, were ready to press play following their anchors' words of warning regarding the severity of the event on tape. The video of Olympic luger Nodar Kumaritashvili's death has been seared into the hearts and minds of millions of people across the world and has even made its way onto YouTube.

What may hit the heart the most is the interview given by Kumaritashvili's father, David, who revealed details of a phone conversation with his son that Thursday, in which Nodar expressed his fear of the very turn that would claim his life less than 24 hours later.

"I'm a luger as well and that's why I told him, 'Brake, brake, don't risk it,'" said the elder Kumaritashvili. "He said, 'No Dad, I will risk it, what will be will be.' And he took the risk." Though he will not watch the video, the elder Kumaritashvili is convinced that his son's life could have been saved. "Maybe my son was at fault, but if the beams weren't there this wouldn't have happened, he would be alive," Kumaritashvili said. "This could have happened to anyone, anyone could have made that mistake. That's what I think."

The tragedy of burying a child is a burden no parent should ever bear. The burden of hearing that your son contributed to his own death by the way he maneuvered his sled is also one with which no father should have to cope.

The sad truth now is that the International Olympic Committee and

the Vancouver games coordinators will try and clear themselves of any wrongdoing in this accident. After studying the crash on video, luge federation officials said it was determined Kumaritashvili was offline coming out of Curve 15 and "did not compensate properly to make correct entrance into Curve 16." It is not immoral for these people to come to these conclusions, but knowing that it could have been avoided by having an extra wall there leaves a sickening feeling in the stomachs of millions. This tragedy has led to an additional wooden wall being placed in the exact spot where Nodar Kumaritashvili flew to his death.

It is quite astonishing to know that people only fix something when tragedy strikes. It is also chilling to know that responsibility is placed on the deceased as opposed to it falling on the men and women who approved the course. Pointing fingers will not bring back Kumaritashvili, but it could bring some respect back to the officials who claim to have washed their hands of this mess. This tragedy will leave a black mark on the 2010 winter games, and it will be placed over the Olympic rings like the piece of black tape placed on the helmets of each luger, who will each wear one in honor of Nodar Kumaritashvili—the 21-year-old dreamer who was looking to honor his family and country by competing in the Olympics.

PC: Catamounts up Next

continued from back page

but invited UConn back into the equation on the strength of a 4-on-4 goal by Maude Blain at 3:48 and a 5-on-3 equalizer from Binning at 10:31.

A would-be regulation win thus wilted into a tie, effectively stalling PC's ascension in the national rankings. Then again, a could-be Connecticut come-from-behind victory was never completed, thus both teams garnered an invaluable Hockey East point. And the Friars, who at night's end might have led by as many as three points or trailed by as many as one, ended up leading by two when they won the shootout.

"It might be only one more point," said Providence Head Coach Bob Deraney. "But what it does is it gives us a full game ahead of UConn, which is really important going into [Saturday's] game."

Saturday's upshot validated Deraney's point, albeit in a somewhat hard-

hitting manner for the Friar faithful. If PC is to cement its claim as the top seed, which bears the privilege of hosting the final two rounds of the Hockey East playoffs, it will likely need to extract four points out of Vermont in a two-night visit to the Burlington, V.T. this weekend.

Otherwise, the Friars' fate will be left in the hands of their Hockey East counterparts. If either UConn or UNH whittles off more points than they do, or if BU or Northeastern can somehow leapfrog them, they can still finish as low as fifth place, which would mean going on the road for a wild card game next weekend.

The Friars return to action on Friday, Feb. 19, when they travel to Burlington, V.T., to take on the University of Vermont Catamounts.

Divers Compete at Big East

by Alexis Smith '12
Sports Staff

SWIM & DIVE

The Diving Team returned from the 2010 Big East Championships this past weekend with their heads held high and with plenty of important experience gained. The Championships were held in Pittsburgh, on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh.

On Friday, Feb. 12, Amie Fracker '13 competed in the women's one-meter diving trials where she came away with a 26th place finish with a score of 189.60. Allie Black '13 came in two spots behind Fracker, 28th, with a score of 176.60. Unfortunately, neither score met the qualifying standard to make it to the next round of diving, as only the top 16 finishers moved on.

For the men, the lone PC representative in the one-meter diving event was Ben Kardian '13 who placed 19th with a score of 199.45. Kardian also missed the cut for the consolation round by a mere eight points.

Although the Friars missed this year's one-meter diving finals, their performances make the years to come very promising.

This was a good rookie year for Kardian who finished the regular season with six first-place finishes, the best mark among all the Friar men. His average score for the season was 240.50 in the one-meter diving events and his lowest score of the season was 213.53 against Lehigh on Oct. 17, in just his first collegiate meet. Kardian posted an impressive top score of 287.85 in

a win against Syracuse and Maine on Jan. 16.

On the women's side, Fracker and Black have placed one-two five times during the season including a strong performance against Holy Cross on Jan. 30, in which Fracker finished first with a score of 238.04 and Black finished second with a score of 230.32. Also on Jan. 16, Fracker had a one-meter dive that scored her 264.60 points in a meet against Syracuse and Maine, good for first place.

Both men's and women's swimmers that qualified for the Big East Championship meet will compete Feb. 17-20.



COURTESY OF FRIARS.COM

Three Friars competed in the Big East Championships, boding a bright future for the squad.

It's COLO Mangia Weekend

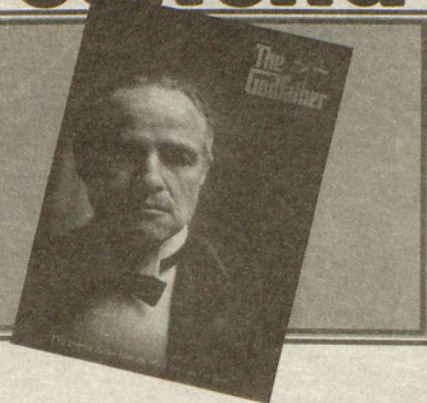
& PC After Hours
PRESENTS

The Godfather

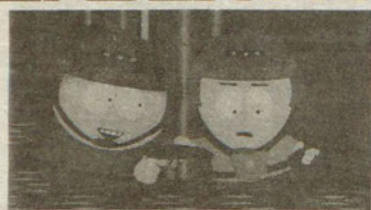
February 19, 2010

Moore Hall I

8:00pm



LASERTAG



FEBRUARY 20, 2010

64 HALL

9:00PM-12:00PM

FREE PIZZA AT 8:00PM

Mangia Dinner

February 21, 2010

McPhail's

6:00pm

\$2 admission

TWO PRIME THREE BEDROOM APARTMENTS FOR RENT

RIGHT NEXT TO COLLEGE
LARGE ROOMS,
EAT-IN KITCHEN W/ PANTRY,
DOUBLE LIVING ROOM,
HARDWOOD FLOORS,
PORCHES, STORAGE,
PARKING, SAFE AREA,
GIRLS PREFERRED,
WASHER & DRYER INCLUDED,
NEGOTIABLE PRICE,
51-53 HUXLEY AVE.,
AVAILABLE JUNE, 2010,
CALL RICHARD
401-826-1223 OR 401-345-9332

The Neurodevelopment Center

in Providence
is seeking individuals
aged 12-21 with
depressive symptoms for
a free drug-free treatment
study. Contact
<http://www.youthmood.com>
or (401)351-7779 for
more information.

Providence Improves to 6-6, Tops Cincy and Marquette

by John Butler '11
Sports Staff

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Don't look now, but the Women's Basketball Team is on a two-game win streak, and the Friars have won three of their last four games. Their latest win came on Tuesday, Feb. 16 against Cincinnati, in a commanding 59-44 rout of the Bearcats.

The win improves PC's record to an even 6-6 in conference, which moves the Friars into sole possession of seventh place in the Big East. That victory, plus an impressive road win over Marquette last weekend, puts the Friars in good position as the final two weeks of the season approaches.

Chelsea Marandola '10 carried the Friars, and it was her second half scoring spree against the Bearcats that secured the win. Marandola's stellar showing came after it was announced on Monday that she was named to the Big East Weekly Honor Roll for the third time this season. The Johnston native leads the Friars in scoring, rebounding, assists, and steals this season.

Against Cincinnati, Marandola chipped in a game-high 23 points, and scored PC's final seven points of the contest. But her late-game heroics were not the entire story.

Cincinnati jumped out to a quick 7-2 start, but the lead changed hands several times in the early going. PC's guards kept the game competitive, with Brittany Dorsey '10 and Symone Roberts '12 going coast-to-coast for back-to-back fast break lay-ups. Dorsey capped that display with a solid three-pointer, and Marandola nailed another three to give the Friars a 12-9 lead by the 13 minute mark.



COURTESY OF SPORTS INFO

Emily Cournoyer '10 had 13 points and was 5-14 from the field in the Friars' 53-44 victory over the Marquette Golden Eagles on Saturday, Feb. 13.

The PC defense alternated between the full-court press and a stingy man-to-man, which proved especially effective in removing the Bearcats' offense from the equation.

"We've held our opponents to under 50 points in the last two games and we got two wins," said Marandola. "Defense is important, and we've been good rebounding and on the full-court press recently. Defense creates offense."

And while the defense held Cincinnati to a mere 25 first half points (the least amount of first half points PC has allowed since beating Seton Hall on Saturday, Jan. 16), a late

offensive push gave the Friars a four-point cushion heading into halftime. The two-minute drive culminated in an Emily Cournoyer '10 bank shot that gave PC a 29-25 lead at the break.

Providence came out strong in the second half, thanks to great passing and good play by Mi-Khida Hankins '11 and Trinity Hull '10. Some second effort points by Jessica Clark '10 were also crucial to the Friars' win.

PC built their lead up to 11 points by the three-minute mark, and Marandola's subsequent scoring spree gave the Friars their fifteen-point victory.

The stats sheet shows just how important Providence's offense was in

the win. The Friars shot 41 percent from the field and sunk four three pointers. Dorsey had two of the treys, which sparked her eight point performance. By all accounts, the Friars are creating better offensive opportunities and they are capitalizing on them to make the most of their possessions.

"We've been shooting well, and shooting can really make you or break you," said Marandola. "We've been getting the ball into the posts, and we've got a good balance right now ... and we're not forcing shots like we were, which definitely helps."

Marandola, Cournoyer, and Dorsey led the Friars against Marquette on Saturday, Feb. 13, with 14, 13, and 11 points, respectively. Hankins had a career-high 11 rebounds in the contest and Marandola had seven, although Providence was still beat in the battle of the boards, 44-38. Three-point shots were an important factor in the victory. The Friars made five of their 13 attempts (38.5 percent), and they shot 72.7 percent from the free-throw line.

The game was a nail-biter down to the 1:57 mark, at which point PC led 46-44. Marandola knocked down a jumper, and was fouled on the shot. She converted for a three-point play, which sealed the game in the Friars' favor. Four Friar free-throws were icing on the cake for Providence's fifth conference win of the season.

The Friars will return to action on Saturday, Feb. 20, in Storrs, Conn. against the Big East-leading Huskies. No. 1/1 Connecticut, one of the most formidable squads in all of the NCAA, will bring to the game a 65 game unbeaten streak—the second longest of its kind in NCAA women's basketball history. The 2001-03 Huskies hold the record at 70 consecutive wins.

New Hampshire Too Much For Friars

by Chris Mammen '11
Sports Staff

MEN'S HOCKEY

This weekend the Men's Hockey Team dropped a heartbreaker to No. 15 University of New Hampshire, 5-2, as the Wildcats maintained their position atop the Hockey East. The Friars dropped to 9-17-2 overall and 4-15-2 in Hockey East.

"We played three really good games against them [UNH] this season," said Friars Head Coach Tim Army. "We were with them until about ten minutes left in the third period and then Bobby Butler got behind us a couple times. Overall I was happy with the way we played but we made a couple big mistakes, and that has sort of plagued us this year."

On Friday, Feb. 12, the Friars traveled to Durham, N.H. looking to scrape together enough points to get into the Hockey East playoffs. UNH opened the scoring 4:01 into the first period when Butler, who would finish the game with four goals, took a shot from the high slot which was deflected in front but found its way into the net, giving the Wildcats a 1-0 lead.

PC scored the equalizer at 17:46 when Andy Balysky '12 took a feed from classmate Robert Maloney and tapped it into the net. Both Maloney and defenseman Mark Fayne '10 were credited with assists on the goal. Scoring ceased until 13:53 of the second period, when the Wildcats retook the lead, 2-1, pouncing on and netting a rebound in front of the PC goal.

The Friars responded just a minute later when John Cavanaugh '10



COURTESY OF SPORTS INFO

John Cavanaugh '10 scored his third goal of the season in a 5-2 loss against No. 15 New Hampshire on Friday, Feb. 12. The Friars have gone winless over their last eight games.

redirected a pass from Matt Bergland '12 into the net, tying the score at 2-2. The Wildcats took control of the game in the third, with Butler exploding for a hat-trick, including an empty net goal, all in the last period. Friar goalie Alex Beaudry '12 finished with 29 saves in the losing effort.

Ben Farrer '11 spoke about the upcoming weekend, "We know that going into this weekend we need to be the team that is working harder. We need to make sure that we don't leave anything in the locker room: Try to take them early and win every battle."

"We have to stay with teams and battle through," said defenseman Eric Baier '11. "We have had the chance to win in several games but a couple bounces don't go your way and you're behind that quickly. We need to stay within our game plan and not give up those bounces."

This weekend the Friars look to make a statement against the surging Boston University Terriers. PC will host the Terriers on Friday, Feb. 19 at 7:00 pm in Schneider Arena and travel to Boston on Saturday, Feb. 20, to face off against BU at 7:00 pm.

Former Friars Make Their Mark On Olympics

MEN'S HOCKEY

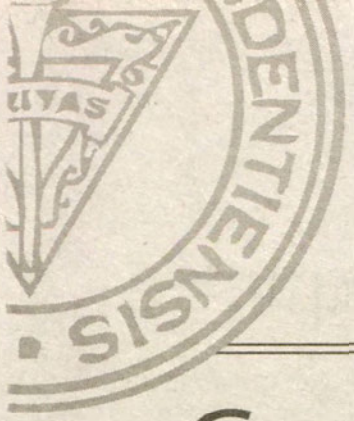
by Dan Ollquist '10
Sports Editor

Although they won't actually lace up the skates or step foot on the ice, two Providence College hockey legends, Brian Burke '77 and Ron Wilson '77 will have an enormous impact on the fate of the United States Hockey team in this year's Olympic Games.

Wilson, who is the Friars all-time leading scorer with 250 career points, will serve as the Head Coach of Team USA. Wilson has an impressive 550 NHL coaching wins to his name and also coached Team USA in the 1998 olympic games in Nagano, Japan. Wilson came to Providence after starring at nearby East Providence High School and went on to become the NCAA's all-time leading scoring defenseman. He is also a member of the Providence College Athletic Hall of Fame.

Burke will also serve an important role for Team USA, acting as the team's general manager. As a player at PC, Burke appeared in a total of 112 games and has since gone on to become one of the NHL's top general managers. He has served as GM for the Vancouver Canucks, and the Anaheim Ducks, and currently for the Toronto Maple Leafs. While at the helm in Anaheim, Burke helped the Ducks take home the 2007 Stanley Cup title, making him just the second former Friar to take home the NHL's highest honor.

Team USA won its first contest 3-1 over Switzerland on Tuesday, Feb. 16.



SPORTS

32 The Cowl

February 18, 2010

Growing Pains Continue For Providence

Young Friars' Losing Streak Hits six After 88-74 Loss to West Virginia

by Dan Ollquist '10
Sports Editor

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Playing their third consecutive top-10 opponent, the Men's Basketball Team once again came up empty. Playing host to No. 8 West Virginia, the Friars struggled against the Mountaineers' length and with the exception of an early second-half PC spurt, the Blue and Gold were able to control the game throughout.

The opening minutes of the game were about as ugly as any stretch that the Friars have played all season. A combination of lackluster defense and stagnant offensive sets allowed West Virginia to open the game on a 25-4 run.

"They're obviously a very talented team and it's no fluke that they're rated in the top-10 in the country," said Head Coach Keno Davis. "Their size and physical play takes everyone out of what they want to do offensively. Even the best teams in this league can't run what they want to against [West Virginia]."

Although the Friars were able to eventually quell the 23-0 Mountaineer run, they still struggled to get any sort of offensive continuity. Providence shot just 24 percent from the floor and was able to connect on only two of 12 attempts from long distance. Poor shooting coupled with an offensive rebounding attack by West Virginia's stars Da'Sean Butler and Devin Ebanks and the Mountaineers had themselves a 46-28 half-time lead.



COURTESY GLENN OSMUNDSON/PROJO.COM

Vincent Council '13 scored 13 points and dished out seven assists in a 88-74 loss to No. 8 West Virginia on Wednesday, Feb. 17.

Looking for any sort of spark, Keno Davis opened the second half with the same small lineup that he used to start the game. Playing a much more inspired full-court press than they did in the first half, the Friars were able to open the second half with a 10-0 run. Leading the charge was Duke Mondy '13 who knocked down a big three-pointer and also did a great job pressuring the West Virginia guards.

After a Vincent Council '13 layup brought the Friars to within six with

16:38 remaining, the Mountaineers buckled down. Needing to crush the momentum building on the PC bench, West Virginia turned to their front-court studs, Butler and Ebanks.

The duo scored 15 points over a five minute span to push the lead back up to 14 with just 7:12 remaining. For the game they combined for 37 points and 12 rebounds.

"[Butler] is really good," said West Virginia Head Coach Bob Huggins. "I think he's probably the

most underappreciated player in the country. He's very versatile and can play the point, the two-guard, or he can go down low."

The Friars were able to keep the game respectable by hitting a number of late threes, but it was a case of too little too late as West Virginia secured an always important Big East road win, 88-74.

After struggling mightily out of the gates, PC was able to make a run at the Mountaineers despite being at less than full health.

"I knew it was going to be a tough night for us," said Davis. "[Bilal Dixon '13] missed some practice with an ankle injury and with a number of illnesses on the team we haven't had a practice with all of our guys in a while."

For the game, Providence had four players reach double-figures in the scoring column. Jamine Peterson '12 led the way with 20 points to go along with 15 rebounds while Brian McKenzie '10, Council and Marshon Brooks '11 each added 13 points of their own.

The loss marked another lump along this young squad's learning curve. Once again the team played well for short stretches but could not sustain their play for long periods of time. Some underclassmen such as Council and Mondy are making some huge strides in their progression, but the defense will have to improve from the team as a whole if PC hopes to make a jump into the upper-half of the Big East standings next season.

On Saturday, Feb. 13, the Friars headed to the city of brotherly love to take on the then-No. 5 ranked Villanova

HOOPS / Page 29

Tragedy In Vancouver

by Chris Torello '11
Sports Staff

COMMENTARY

Olympic Luger Nodar Kumaritashvili a 21-year-old from the tiny country of Georgia who had dreamed of representing his country in the Winter Olympics, was tragically killed when he lost control of his sled on the final turn of his final practice run before the opening ceremonies in Vancouver. Kumaritashvili's body rocked back and forth against the icy sides of what is being called the fastest track in the world, before being flung over the very wall that was there to ensure his safety, and into a steel poll. Medical staff at the Whistler Sliding Center was by his side, beginning mouth-to-mouth resuscitations and chest compressions within one minute following the crash. He was then flown by helicopter to a nearby hospital for further medical attention. However, there was nothing that could be done. Nodar Kumaritashvili was dead.

While IOC President Jacques Rogge sat before the press following Kumaritashvili's death, his eyes were watered up. "This is a very sad day...I have no words to say what we feel," said Rogge. There are no words, only the images and video of the tragic accident. It was not long before the video appeared on television, as all

LUGE/ Page 30

Friars Split with UConn; Fall Into 3-Way Tie

Providence Tied with UConn and UNH with 26 Points

by Al Daniel '11
Sports Staff

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

With 10:59 gone in the first period last Saturday, all it took was one tip of the twig from Connecticut puckslinger Monique Weber to dock the PC Women's Hockey team into relatively unfamiliar territory.

Weber had drawn first blood a mere 43 ticks into the action. And then, with a homeward bound deflection on a shot by point patroller Cristin Allen, she singlehandedly upped her Huskies to a 2-0 lead, marking the first time the Friars have trailed by multiple goals since a 4-1 falter against Wisconsin two nights after Thanksgiving.

In all, PC has dealt with a hole of two goals or greater on six occasions in 32 games played this season. And not unlike the previous five times, Saturday's deficit presaged defeat as the Huskies paced themselves to a 4-1 triumph at Freitas Ice Forum in Storrs, Conn.

After top gun Michelle Binning augmented her team's advantage to 3-0 at 3:21 of the middle frame, the Huskies began to push their luck through three consecutive penalties. Brittany Murphy was flagged for cross-checking with 6:36 gone in the second, then Casey Knajdek went off for body-checking 12 seconds into the third.

The Friars whiffed on those first two resultant power plays and other than one strike via assistant captain Jean



COURTESY OF SPORTS INFO

Lauren Veharanta '12 and Lauren Covell '12 have been stellar for PC this season. Veharanta sent the puck through the poles in the Friars' shootout against UConn on Friday, Feb. 12.

O'Neill '11 with 12:09 on the clock, PC couldn't throw on the ignition. By day's end, their power play had gone 1-for-4 with a cumulative four shots.

With the win, plus the single point they extracted from the Friars' 4-3 shootout victory the preceding night, the Huskies have suddenly helped to give Providence an overload of company at the top of the Hockey East standings. New Hampshire, by way of a two-game sweep of Vermont, likewise pulled even on the top the Hockey East throne.

With two regular season contests left for all parties, the three contenders have 26 points apiece. And the right to host the conference championship is still open to the likes of Boston University and Northeastern, who each trail by just two points with 24.

Given the current gridlock, which is now more statistically constricted than ever, Part I of last weekend's series was all the more a half-full/half-empty outcome for the Friars. They carried a 3-1 lead into last Friday's third period,

PC/ Page 30